

SIR MIRZA M. ISMAIL



SIR MIRZA M. ISMAIL, K C I E, O B E., C. S T J., AMIN-UL-MULK

SIR MIRZA M. ISMAIL

VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE OFFICE OF DEWAN OF MYSORE



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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

No administration of Mysore has attracted more attention or won greater admiration than that of Sir Mirza M. Ismail during 1916-1941. Progressive in all directions, it struck new lines of development and has succeeded in them. It has set people thinking and it has helped to build a stronger people and a greater country than ever before. The variety of opinion expressed on it is here brought together and it is, if it is anything, one of genuine appreciation. If regret is coupled with appreciation, it seems but the reflex of the wish that such administration should be continued for the benefit of the people and the country.

The Publishers desire to acknowledge their indebtedness to the Editors of the several Newspapers and Journals for permission given to reprint the views and opinions that appeared in their respective organs. If any have escaped their attention, the Publishers would assure all concerned that it has been entirely beyond their control to secure copies of them.

The hope may be expressed that this volume will prove helpful to those interested in the actual administration of the Provinces and States in India to-day as indicating the lines on which such administration should proceed, if it is to do good both to the people and the country in the conditions of to-day.

BANGALORE, }
10th Dec. 1942 }

THE PUBLISHERS.

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CHAPTER I

SOME PRESS OPINIONS

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Calcutta, in its issue dated May 16, 1941, observed:—

The rather unexpected announcement relating to the retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail from the Dewanship of Mysore will be received with regret. Under his able guidance that State has made noteworthy progress in many directions. The most outstanding among his achievements have been the steady industrialisation of the State, the carrying out of big irrigation projects and all-round improvement of the two cities of Bangalore and Mysore. As a statesman and administrator Sir Mirza has, throughout his stewardship extending over 15 years, shown remarkable judgment and balance; and in the social sphere, particularly as a host, his reputation is great. It is to be regretted that Mysore should be deprived of the services of such a man at this juncture. But we hope his retirement will not completely take him away from the public life of the country. With his experience and acumen he can yet accomplish much—for he is only fifty-eight.

BOMBAY CHRONICLE

The *Bombay Chronicle*, in its issue dated May 16, 1941, wrote:—

The sudden and utterly unexpected resignation of Sir Mirza Ismail, for sixteen years the Dewan of Mysore, will be deeply regretted by all who know anything of what he did for the State these many years. Having been in the service of the State for thirty-five years, he has left his mark on almost every department of administration. His extraordinary administrative talent has been appreciated far beyond his State and we have no doubt that in one capacity or other he will give the best in him to the country in its most trying time.

In the absence of a statement on Sir Mirza's resignation either by himself or the Mysore Durbar it is difficult to comment fully on the facts of the case and any conclusions that can be drawn will necessarily be in the nature of a guess. The fact that Sir Mirza had virtually committed himself to the starting of a motor industry in Mysore is fairly well known. It is presumed that some financial backing must also have been guaranteed to Mr. Walchand by the Mysore State. However, when the Mysore Durbar turned down the scheme, Sir Mirza was left with no other alternative but to resign. What was the factor that made the Mysore Maharajah decide against the well-considered opinion of his trusted Dewan? Was it internal pressure from the other State officials or was it outside pressure from such sources as are

capable of exercising such pressure? In any case, we are confident that Sir Mirza himself will continue to help the scheme along with another ex-Dewan of Mysore, Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

* * *

The *Bombay Chronicle*, in its issue dated May 20, 1941, observes:—

Commenting on Sir Mirza Ismail's resignation of his office of Dewan of Mysore the other day, we expressed the hope that "in one capacity or another he would give the best in him to the country in its most trying time". Indeed, about this there can be no doubt, for it is recognised on all hands that Sir Mirza is deeply attached to the land of his birth and is ever eager to serve it to the best of his light. But the question that still continues to intrigue one is the reason for such a man's resignation. It is hard to believe that mere differences in connection with the automobile industry project can be of such a vital character as to warrant the drastic step. Unless there is some authoritative statement either from Sir Mirza himself or from the Mysore Darbar, as we said the other day, it is difficult to comment definitely on the situation that necessitated the step he has taken.

Still there are certain facts of the situation in the State which have probably a bearing on the resignation. Since the resignation appears to be voluntary, it is reasonable to deduce that Sir Mirza himself is anxious to lend a helping hand in the improvement of that situation. We refer to the

Mysore State Congress. This popular movement has been progressing from strength to strength and has to-day developed into a great force with large mass following in the State. A time has now come when it can no longer be ignored or treated with indifference. In the peculiar conditions that have arisen in Mysore as in other parts of this country and the world, the desire to end all cause of strife is natural. Is it possible that behind the resignation and by it, Sir Mirza Ismail himself hopes to make the path of rapprochement with the State Congress easier? Is it possible that having been responsible for a particular policy towards the Congress during his term of office, he felt it embarrassing to bring about a change in that policy? And could it be that as a far-sighted statesman and a good Mysorean, he has elected to retire to be of greater service to the State to which he belongs and the people he loves? If so, while admiring his self-effacement, we cannot help wishing that he could remain in office and also inaugurate a new policy in respect of reforms. However, it is good to learn that he has renewed his contacts with Sir M. Visvesvaraya, which is indicative of the way he intends to utilise his talents and undoubted abilities for the progress and prosperity of the State. Close collaboration between the two must, indeed, bear good fruit, of which the State could well be proud.

COMMERCE

The *Commerce*, Bombay, writing on May 17, 1941, said:—

Sir Mirza M. Ismail's resignation of the Dewanship of Mysore will be widely regretted throughout the country. The stewardship of the State was in his hands during the past sixteen years and how ably he discharged his responsibilities is writ large in every page and aspect of Mysore's history during this period. Mysore as we know to-day, though the foundations were laid by some of his illustrious predecessors, is largely of his making; and when the history of the State comes to be written, the name of Sir Mirza is sure to occupy a very prominent place in it.

At the time Sir Mirza became Dewan in 1926, Mysore was still grappling with post-War problems. Revenue had declined, while expenditure was still on the high grade, despite retrenchments effected previously as a result of a Committee's recommendations. The Mysore Iron Works, started early in the post-War period when prices were high, became a matter of continuous concern to the State, owing to declining prices and over-capitalisation. There was a constant public demand for the closure of the Works, which was working at a loss and consequently entailed a big drain on the coffers of the State year after year. An administrator of lesser calibre would have succumbed to these depressing circumstances; but Sir Mirza boldly stuck on, with the result that to-day the Works is not only earning handsome

profits but is also performing a vital national function in connection with the manufacture of war materials.

As a result of the deliberations of a second Retrenchment Committee, the budget of the State became more or less balanced and more money was forthcoming for the prosecution of nation-building activities. Gradually, the financial position has improved to such an extent that Sir Mirza can now proudly hand over to his successor a public fisc in a very sound condition and with greatly increased resources. The income has risen to about Rs. 439 lakhs a year, while it amounted to a bare Rs. 350 lakhs when he took the reins of office. This improvement, it should be stated to his credit, has been mainly brought about without increasing the burden of taxation on the people. By a judicious policy of encouraging industrial development and by tapping certain non-tax revenue resources, he has been able to achieve this desirable consummation, as a result of which there has been a progressive increase in the nation-building activities of the State. The State's public debt amounts to about Rs. 7½ crores, which is more than fully covered by productive assets. The number of remunerative commercial undertakings which have been recently started has given a prominent place to Mysore in the industrial map of India; the credit for such a consummation is in no small measure due to the bold initiative and persevering enterprise of Sir Mirza.

Throughout the whole period, Sir Mirza has pursued a forward industrial policy, designed to

make Mysore a great industrial unit of India, correct the balance between agriculture and industry, exploit the natural resources of the State to the fullest possible extent, increase the revenue of Mysore and augment the purchasing power of the people. He was never tired of stating that his policy was "to put more money into the pockets of the people". He has succeeded in this laudable ambition to an appreciable extent, as the numerous flourishing industrial concerns of the State would amply demonstrate. Even during the period of the great world depression, he was not deflected from his high purpose. Mysore saw, as a result, industrial expansion at a period when deflation was the general order of the day throughout the world. In industrialising the State, he took care to give proper scope for private initiative and enterprise. As a result, the State and private enterprise have marched hand in hand in perfect co-operation to strive for increased material prosperity in Mysore. The Mysore Sugar Factory is a glorious achievement of this desirable industrial policy.

Sir Mirza was one of the earliest to perceive in this country the vast industrial potentialities of the war. He, therefore, immediately set to work and started a few war-time industries which promised successful fruition under the present favourable circumstances. The paper factory, manufacture of machine tools and the chemical industry are notable examples in this connection. It is, therefore, a pity that the guiding hand of this able and experienced administrator, possessed with a courageous vision and persevering enthusiasm,

will not be available to guide the destinies of the State during the critical times that lie ahead in the war, and, much more so, in the post-war period. His Highness the Maharaja is yet young and new to administrative affairs; it is, therefore, of the utmost importance that, for some time more to come, he should have at his disposal the services of an able and experienced administrator of the type of Sir Mirza, who has run the administration with markedly progressive success during the past sixteen years.

DAILY GAZETTE

The *Daily Gazette*, Karachi, in its issue dated May 16, 1941, wrote:—

The Associated Press of India has confirmed the news furnished by our New Delhi Correspondent that Amin-ul-Mulk Sir Mirza Muhammad Ismail, the talented Dewan of Mysore, is laying down his high office by the end of the month. The news, even if true as it appears to be, is a little intriguing because Sir Mirza's extended term of office does not normally expire before 1943. True, the great affection he had for the late Maharaja of Mysore, whose class-fellow and intimate friend he was, was responsible for his breakdown on the death of Sri Krishna Raja Wadeyar, but his sense of duty to his State and the importunities of the young Maharaja, His Highness Sri Jayachamarajendra Wadeyar, weighed with him and at last he decided to go on.

The news which has been pounced upon the public of India is difficult to explain unless one is going to read into it the possibility of another and larger sphere of work for the Dewan of Mysore. Some months ago, at the time when the Viceroy's August Offer was in the air, Sir Mirza's name was talked about as a possible member of the Central Executive Council. Whether any such possibility still exists is difficult to say in the face of the Government of India's stern and unbending attitude. It is just possible, however, that they may be thinking of borrowing Sir Mirza's services even within the present limited framework.

Be that as it may, it is interesting to recall that some years ago His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad was very anxious to take over Sir Mirza Ismail for his own Dominion. Sir Mirza, however, refused because he was too devoted to Mysore and her former Ruler to relinquish his post of duty. It is just possible that Sir Akbar Hydari, owing to his age, might himself be thinking of a tried administrator to succeed him in due course. One is obliged to fall on theories in the absence of an intelligent explanation from any of our news agencies. There is, however, no doubt that Mysore will not easily reconcile herself to the impending loss, for Sir Mirza Ismail may justly claim to be the builder of modern Mysore.

DECCAN TIMES

The *Deccan Times*, Madras, in its issue dated May 18, 1941, said:—

The news of the impending retirement of *Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza Ismail from the Dewan-ship of Mysore will be received with regret by all lovers of the progressive State. What Sir Mirza has done for Mysore, no single administrator has ever done for any State. Through years of unceasing toil, this statesman steered the ship of State through many a political storm and made Mysore what it is to-day—a model Indian province with a contented and happy people. Mirzaic Mysore has earned praise from every visitor, Indian and foreign, and its administration is the envy of all. It is Mysore's singular misfortune that it has to-day to part from one whose only ambition was to make its people happy. We are not in a position to state what led to this parting. The late Maharaja had implicit confidence in his Dewan and friend and the people benefited immensely from the close co-operation between the two. We had hoped, as every lover of Mysore would have hoped, that with similar co-operation between the present Ruler and Sir Mirza the State would attain to greater heights. But it is not to be. We can now only hope that Sir Mirza will take upon himself some task worthy of his great abilities as "one of the ablest among administrators not only in India but in the whole British Commonwealth" so that others may be benefited from what certainly is to-day Mysore's irreparable loss. Sir Mirza is

only fifty-eight and young. He will no doubt prove himself a great asset in any place he may choose to occupy.

DHARMARAJYA

The *Dharmarajya*, in its impression dated May 22, 1941, observes:—

The retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail, the distinguished Dewan of Mysore, will be widely regretted, following so closely on the death of His late Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Bahadur. No Prime Minister of an Indian State has had an unbroken service of fifteen years at the helm of affairs of the State and this is a well-deserved tribute to the capacity, loyalty and popularity of the outgoing Dewan, qualities which rarely combine in a single individual. The retirement is all the more regrettable being on the eve of an important step forward being taken in the direction of introducing representative Government in the State. A Mysorean first and last, Sir Mirza Ismail gave his best to the State and if Mysore enjoys the proud distinction of being a model State and is industrially one of the most advanced parts of India, without being oblivious to the development of cottage industries, agricultural improvements, rural betterment and educational advancement, it is due to the devoted services of Sir Mirza Ismail. In the amenities and conveniences provided throughout the State, we have evidence of the retiring Dewan's continual

and discerning care and perseverance for the well-being of the State's subjects and their lasting prosperity, as witness the well-laid out and maintained roads and avenues, the well-kept parks and gardens, irrigation projects, hospitals, etc. Sir Mirza Ismail is still comparatively young and one with his ripe experience, mature wisdom, sound statesmanship, breadth of outlook and fine culture combined with fascinating and highly polished manners, is just the man who will be called upon to take great part in the public life of the country at this critical period in her march to freedom. And Mysore will have the proud distinction of having given one of her greatest sons for the service of India.

FEDERAL INDIA AND INDIAN STATES

The *Federal India and Indian States*, in its issue dated May 14, 1941, remarks:—

The unexpected has happened. Sir Mirza M. Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore, will retire from the 1st June 1941, after a distinguished service of the State for a period of more than fifteen years as Dewan of Mysore.

We do not wish to dwell upon the very many schemes of popular uplift initiated during Sir Mirza's brilliant regime. Suffice it to say that the future historian of Mysore will adjudge the period of Sir Mirza's Dewanship of Mysore as the golden age of Mysore.

A report published in the *Hindu* of Madras

from the pen of its correspondent sets forth the cause of Sir Mirza's sudden decision to retire from service—a decision which has saddened the hearts of his friends and shocked those of his enemies. Probably, the political pigmies of Mysore thought that Sir Mirza was too much after earthly glories, and that the Dewanship of Mysore could alone guarantee it! Which among them, one wonders, had imagined even for a moment that Sir Mirza's spirit was a wounded spirit—nay, an outraged spirit even—at the time of his telling the Sovereign that he would be glad to be relieved of the burden of his office? Commenting on the manner in which Sir Mirza's suffering spirit—ever agonising the demise of our late August Sovereign—should be tended and softened by all concerned, we observed editorially in the issue of this Journal dated the 18th September 1940 as follows:—

“Nor are we under any illusions, if, for any reasons, Sir Mirza elects to retire from the service of the State; no other force can, in that event, even preserve unscathed the great monuments of human endeavour he will have left behind him. Only he can discover a proper substitute for himself: he is such a titan. There is peace and freedom in Mysore to-day as a result of the efforts put forth by Sir Mirza. If he retires, we fear, there will be no alternatives to the establishment of responsible government... It is therefore necessary for all political pigmies to say or do nothing that would in any way wound the feelings of Sir Mirza Ismail, and to simply try to walk in his footsteps.”

Commenting on the passing away of His late Highness, we stated editorially in these columns in the issue of this Journal dated the 7th August 1940, as follows:—

“His late Highness is not dead. He lives in every loyal and patriotic Mysorean gentleman. What Sir Mirza was to His late Highness, Arjun was to Lord Sri Krishna. May God give Sir Mirza Ismail in particular, strength to bear the loss; and let not Sir Mirza, in his hour of agony and mental travail, forget the fact that his responsibility to serve the people is all the greater to-day. May he become the *Dadheechi* of Mysore is our earnest prayer.”

None can say that Sir Mirza has not carried out this humble wish on our part. His life was one dedicated to the service of the people, and once he felt that he could no longer serve them as he wished he could, he immediately resolved upon taking action reminiscent of the one which Prince Siddhartha took prior to becoming a Buddha. Here is the practical fulfilment of the Gandhian philosophy of non-possession so admirably propounded by Gandhiji in *Young India* as far back as 1930.

According to the report of the Bangalore correspondent of the *Hindu* referred to above, Sir Mirza who is well known for his great zeal for development of industries, both big and small, was emphatically of opinion that the automobile industry would prove a great potential employer of labour and would benefit the State directly and indirectly to a great extent and that the establishment of this key industry would lead to the starting of subsidiary

factories for manufacturing parts and greatly minimise unemployment in the State. According to the said correspondent, His Highness is said to have differed from his Dewan on this matter and held that the present time was inopportune to start this industry as it would impede war effort. The correspondent also refers in the course of his despatch to the *Hindu* to the statement by the Government of India in December last expressing full sympathy with the scheme, but at the same time suggesting that the starting of this industry would divert skilled workers from ammunition work and that it would be difficult to release the dollars necessary owing to exchange restrictions. It has been suggested that Sir Mirza thereafter expressed the wish that he should be enabled to retire from the Dewanship.

Public opinion on this question in and outside State appears to be that an unhappy decision on the question was taken on the data presented by the agents of anti-Indian vested interests, and that the attitude of Sir Charles Todhunter, the Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja, was less than helpful to Indian interests in this regard. We deprecate the existence of such an opinion, and we deplore the importing of racial sentiments while discussing a purely economic proposition, which, had it been allowed to come to fruition, would not only have accelerated India's war potential, but would also have made Mysore the industrial paradise of the world. As Sir M. Visvesvaraya is reported to have said, Mysore has just missed the bus.

That apart, one does not know if the *Hindu* correspondent has correctly presented the position obtaining in this regard. Does he wish the Indian public to believe that His Highness the Maharaja would deign to tell his Dewan that the starting of a motor industry would impede war effort? The people of Mysore are being ruled by patriotic Maharajas, and it would be an insult to the intelligence of every loyal Mysorean to be told that the actions of a great imperial statesman of the calibre of Sir Mirza Ismail in any respect would have retarded Mysore's war effort. Any such view must only be deemed an amateurish view, as there is no greater friend of Britain in India to-day than Sir Mirza Ismail who is rightly compared by political thinkers throughout the Empire to statesmen like General Smuts, Viscount Balfour and Mr. Disraeli. Mysore is to-day on the political and cultural map of the world, thanks largely to the efforts put forth by Sir Mirza; and it is unnecessary for us to state that that is the view held by the rulers and the ruled in Mysore.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE EAST

The *Great Britain and the East*, dated June 5, 1941, wrote as follows:—

On Saturday last Sir Mirza Ismail retired from the Dewanship of Mysore after fifteen years in which he has been Prime Minister of that outstanding State of India. Altogether he has served thirty-five years in official positions in the State.

Previously to being Prime Minister he had been first Huzur Secretary to the late Maharaja, and later his Private Secretary.

During the years in which he was Dewan, Mysore has made wonderful progress, for there was complete understanding between the Prime Minister and the Maharaja, and full scope was given to the administrative ability of the Dewan.

Although he now retires, Sir Mirza Ismail is still comparatively a young man, and it may be hoped that his conspicuous talents will find some outlet in administration in India as a whole. No man in India has won a more distinguished place in the opinion of his countrymen.

HINDU

The *Hindu*, in an article entitled "A Distinguished Dewan" on May 12, 1941, remarked:—

The brief announcement of the impending relinquishment of the Dewanship of Mysore by Sir Mirza Ismail will be received with surprise and regret by all those who have watched with sympathy and interest the progress of that State. Not the least disquieting feature of this development is that it follows so closely on the great loss sustained by Mysore by the death of His Highness Krishnaraja Wadiyar, who had been like a father to his people. Seeing that during the latter portion of His late Highness' reign, which saw the fruition of many a well-thought-out scheme of industrial expansion, Sir Mirza Ismail enjoyed the well-

merited confidence of the ruler, it was widely believed that His Highness Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, would continue to be advised by his late uncle's trusted Dewan. During the very short time that the present ruler has been on the throne, His Highness has given ample evidence of his determination to acquaint himself very thoroughly with the intricacies of administration. But we cannot believe there could be any sphere of public policy on which difference of any fundamental character could have developed between His Highness and a selfless patriot like Sir Mirza Ismail. And it would be unfortunate if at this juncture His Highness should deprive himself of the assistance of a well-trying, and able servant whose devotion to the State is equalled only by his loyalty to the Ruling House. The reasons for the retirement of Sir Mirza are not yet known, but it is safe to assume that the one ground that might justify a change in the Dewanship at this juncture is not present. For, the arduous burden of a long period of stewardship, assumed at the comparatively early age of forty-three, has, happily, left Sir Mirza at fifty-eight with many more years of public service. We still hope that he will be enabled to continue to give of his best to his State—for Sir Mirza Ismail is a Mysorean first and last. But if circumstances decide otherwise we trust he will not allow his valuable knowledge of men and things, acquired over a number of eventful years to run to waste in unprofitable, if also well-earned, retirement, but enter whole-heartedly into the progressive public life of the country at this critical period in her

march to freedom. And Mysore's loss may well turn out to be India's gain.

HITAVADA

The *Hitavada*, Nagpur, in its issue dated May 18, 1941, observed:—

The resignation of Sir Mirza Ismail of his office of Dewan of Mysore has come as a painful surprise to those who have the welfare of Mysore at heart. The ambitious schemes of industrialisation which have been vigorously launched and successfully pursued in Mysore owe not a little to the energetic mind of Sir Mirza Ismail. The prominence of Mysore is entirely due to his efforts and in the list of those who have made Mysore great, Sir Mirza Ismail will occupy a high place. The resignation arose over the differences between the Durbar and Sir Mirza on the question of the setting up of the automobile industry in Mysore. The plans were all ready; only the signature was required on the dotted line for guaranteeing the interest on capital. At the last moment, the Durbar declined to ratify the agreement and Sir Mirza, who was closely associated with the scheme, had no alternative but to resign. As Sir M. Visvesvaraya said "Mysore has missed the bus".

INDEPENDENT

The *Independent*, Nagpur, writing on May 17, 1941, said:—

A few months back it was indicated in the press that an automobile factory would be established in the Mysore State as a result of the efforts of Mr. Walchand Hirachand and the helpful attitude of the Mysore State. Now, reports from Bangalore state that the guaranteeing of 3½ per cent. interest by the State “did not appeal to the Mysore Durbar as financially sound” in the words of Sir M. Visvesvaraya. This is given out as one of the reasons—we believe there must be others too—why the State could not accede to the proposal of establishing a factory. It would appear Sir Mirza Ismail differed from the Durbar and since his view could not prevail, he has been constrained to resign. The Durbar has accepted the resignation and it is stated, is considering appointment of his successor. This shows that the Durbar has weighty reasons for differing from Sir Mirza. In the absence of more detailed information it is difficult to say how far the one or the other is justified. Though other differences regarding appointment of non-official ministers to the Mysore Executive Council are also given as reasons for his resignation, it is obvious from press reports that they pale into insignificance before the hitch over the automobile factory proposal. It is difficult to understand clearly why this one difference has been made to figure so prominently in connection with Sir Mirza’s resignation. There can be no

two opinions as to the invaluable services he rendered to the State. His resignation from its service must be, therefore, deemed a definite loss to Mysore. It is sad to know that differences over establishment of an industry have been mainly responsible in putting an end to his career as Dewan. Sir Mirza is undoubtedly a man of proved talents, tact and statesmanship. These as well as the Durbar's progressive spirit were responsible in the past for the industrial development of the State. There are a number of pressing problems in the country in addition to industrial development. Not the least of them is the communal one. If men like Sir Mirza Ismail harness their energies to the task of restoring communal harmony, the country will take a definite march on the road to progress.

INDIAN SOCIAL REFORMER

The *Indian Social Reformer*, Bombay, in its issue dated May 17, 1941, remarked:—

At the end of last week an Associated Press message was published merely announcing that Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore, had resigned with effect from the end of this month. Since the death of the late Maharaja with whom Sir Mirza was closely associated as Private Secretary and as Dewan for many years, and whom he revered as his master, Sir Mirza has had spells of ill-health off and on, and it was thought that his retirement was most probably due to this circumstance. But later messages indicated that the

resignation was due to differences regarding the establishment of an automobile industry in Mysore and the nomination under the Reforms scheme of an elected non-official member of the Representative Assembly as Minister. Sir Mirza had warmly supported the establishment of the industry and from the circumstantial statements issued from time to time—the last only a few days ago—in the Press, it does not appear likely that there was any difference about it in the Mysore Durbar. The last minute announcement just a day or two previous to Sir Mirza's resignation that Mysore had withdrawn from the project, suggests that the veto was prompted by outside intervention. As regards the nomination of a non-official Minister, a difference on the point is not itself a sufficient cause for resignation on the part of a Minister. Even in Britain a strict upholder of the constitutional rights of Ministers like Mr. Gladstone, had more than once deferred to the personal prejudices of the Sovereign. The parallel, however, is not exact. The whole Reforms scheme would be imperilled if the Minister chosen is one with whom the Dewan is in acute disagreement. Anyhow, we should welcome Sir Mirza's release from official harness as making available for non-official public service, a statesman of broad views, ripe administrative experience, and complete freedom from communal bias. Such men are by no means too numerous at the present time.

INDIAN STATES GAZETTE

The *Indian States Gazette*, Srirangam, dated May 1941, says:—

Sir Mirza Ismail, we regret to have to write, retires on and from 1st June 1941, at the age of 58, after a continuous and successful regime of 15 years as Dewan of Mysore. One who has had the opportunity of coming into close contact with this charming Prime Minister of a leading native State like Mysore will acknowledge Sir Mirza as a great statesman and as a man of winning personality and attractive manners. Sir Mirza has always been very kind, affable and obliging to all. He took an abiding interest in the people of the State, made frequent tours in several of the small villages and towns, heard peoples' grievances and ordered redress immediately wherever possible. By his upright conduct and fearless adherence to principles and by his exceptional capacity as an administrator, he won the love and esteem of the subjects and the regard and gratitude of his master (the Ruler).

His success and devotedness to the administration has been marked with balanced progress in all the departments. During the past 15 years there has been vast development in agriculture, co-operation and in technical instruction. There has also been a great improvement in housing and in the introduction of sanitary conditions and water-supply in towns and villages. The beautifying of the cities of Bangalore and Mysore was another interesting operation. On the health side, there has been an extension of medical aid in the rural areas.

A health survey, tuberculosis survey and sanitary survey of some of the greater cities were also instituted. The supply of electric power to new towns was taken up on a large scale. The wide extension of irrigation works and spreading of several schemes of industrial enterprises which are helping to a great extent in ameliorating the condition of the people of the State and solving the wearying problem of unemployment are no doubt real achievements thought out and worked out by the popular Dewan besides the organisation of a co-operative agricultural colony for the untouchables and the constitution of a committee on employment. The crowning efforts of all the achievements, however, was in securing a remission of Rs. 10½ lakhs of Mysore's annual subsidy to the Government of India. In the words of Lord Sankey, the greatest statesman of Great Britain, the Mysore State "is not only a pattern to India but a pattern to the world". We may say, a model to be copied by other States, in all respects. A chorus of tributes are daily pouring on Sir Mirza's brilliant career on the eve of his retirement.

These great and strenuous labours, we feel, must have put a terrible strain on Sir Mirza and induced him to lay down an office which he has held with the greatest distinction all these 15 years. We feel that he must have rest however much we may grieve over his retirement. He will now have ample leisure and we hope his learned counsels will be useful to the great national issues of the country at large.

LEADER

The *Leader*, Allahabad, in its issue dated May 15, 1941, remarked:—

We are indebted to the Bangalore correspondent of the *Times of India* for information relating to Sir Mirza Ismail's resignation of the office of Dewan of Mysore. Sir Mirza Ismail, it appears, recommended to His Highness the Maharaja that annual interest of 3½ per cent. should be guaranteed by the Government of the State to the Company which was to establish an automobile factory at Bangalore and that His Highness did not see his way to comply. As the result the promoters of the proposed automobile company have now to look elsewhere for support. Secondly, the correspondent says that the persons recommended by Sir Mirza Ismail from among elected members of the reformed State Legislature for appointment to the Mysore Executive Council were not acceptable to His Highness. It is stated that it is due to these two reasons that Sir Mirza has deemed it his duty to ask His Highness to relieve him of the duties of his office. It is added that the Maharaja has accepted the resignation and that it will take effect from the end of May. One of Sir Mirza Ismail's predecessors, in fact the most distinguished of them after the great Sir Seshadri Iyer, we refer to Sir Visvesvaraya, has paid his just tribute, a tribute not a particle more than just, to the retiring Dewan: "He is a great patriot who has done much to promote the welfare of the people of Mysore."

We have not the slightest hesitation in describing the sudden retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail as a great loss to the State and people of Mysore. He has held the office for the longest period after Sir Seshadri Iyer. If the latter was Dewan for 18 years, Sir Mirza has been for 15. Of these 15 years he served the late Maharaja for 14 years and enjoyed his complete confidence. It is a great tribute to Sir Mirza Ismail's high and disinterested character that he never abused that confidence and that he applied his talents, which are uncommon, and his industry, which is great, unreservedly to the service of his master, his fellow-subjects and the State of which he was a native. (His family has belonged to Mysore and been officially connected with the State since the time of his grandfather who first went there from Persia.) The progress of Mysore in every sphere of national life during the decade and a half of Sir Mirza Ismail's strenuous premiership, when recited in full, will read almost like a romance.

Constitutional reform, the advance of local self-government, continuous extension of the facilities of education including the establishment of the University of Mysore, the extension of beneficial social services almost to the limit of the resources of the State, uninterrupted and continuous industrial development begun by his distinguished and patriotic predecessor Sir Visvesvaraya, town-planning with a trained eye to architectural beauty as well as the requirements of public health, the extension of facilities of irrigation as well as of the supply of electric power for the amenities

of life as well as industrial purposes—this is by no means an exhaustive indication of the numerous beneficial activities which engaged the continuous attention of Sir Mirza Ismail as Dewan. It was a talented pro-Congress lady's opinion uttered to the writer a few years ago, that while in British India the Government did too little for the people, the Government of Mysore did so much for them as to leave them little to do for themselves. Well, this is not a tribute of which Sir Mirza need be ashamed!

A Muslim by birth and in religious faith, he is one of the very few Mahomedans in India who have maintained unbroken fellowship with his Hindu fellow-countrymen and with his brethren of other faiths without a trace of communal bias in his public policy or personal opinions. Not only a very capable administrator but a statesman of a high order, Sir Mirza Ismail has always been in social relations the most amiable of men, the pink of courtesy, a most hospitable host and a genuine friend without a trace of consciousness of high position. Altogether, we know in the whole of India almost no one for whom equally in private and public life we have uniformly cherished a higher feeling of esteem than for Sir Mirza. We consider his retirement from office within a year of the accession to power of the present Maharaja, still young and inexperienced, if fortunately talented and instructed, a very great loss to the State.

But we cannot think of Sir Mirza Ismail, abounding with energy and enthusiasm and in the possession of his full faculties of mind and body,

leading a retired life. What is Mysore's loss should be turned to India's advantage. If the part has lost the whole should gain. If Lord Linlithgow was serious when he promised the expansion of his Executive Council and if Mr. Amery was sincere in his statement in the House of Commons a few days later, Sir Mirza Ismail should at once be invited to join the Government of India and assist in the more vigorous prosecution of the war. If they are not so wise, we earnestly hope that Sir Mirza after a brief rest will enter the public life of British India, to which he can make so rich a contribution, and serve the Motherland with the same high ability and disinterested purpose which he has until now applied to the service of the State of Mysore. In all circumstances we prayerfully wish him a long life of uninterrupted happiness and prosperity, of continued personal distinction and public usefulness.

LOKAMITRA

The following is the gist of a leading article in the *Lokamitra* of May 19, 1941, under the caption, "Sir Mirza Ismail's Resignation":—

The news of Sir Mirza's resignation will be received everywhere with keen regret. Sir Mirza is undoubtedly responsible for Mysore being known as the Model State. He is not merely an eminent Indian but is also an international figure. He is a distinguished administrator of outstanding ability. He is largely responsible for the welcome

reduction of unemployment in the State. He took a bold stand and in the face of great opposition, has converted the natural resources of Mysore to material advantage.

In every field of civic activity, Sir Mirza has left behind an indelible impression of ability and personal interest. His work has been particularly noteworthy in connection with the improvement of rural areas.

Mysore is the largest Hindu State in India. It is therefore remarkable that Sir Mirza should have so conducted himself throughout these many years as to earn the love and encomium of all communities. He has set up an excellent example by showing that a Muslim could successfully be at the head of the administration of a State consisting of more than ninety per cent. of Hindus.

He has eloquently proved that the Hindu-Muslim problem is not, after all, an insoluble one.

Sir Mirza has altogether rendered 35 years of service to the Mysore State. Of these 16 have been spent as its Dewan. In the usual course he was due to retire in January 1943. But his unfortunate and sudden exit has given rise to much grief not only among all Mysoreans but also among Kannadigas. nay, the people of the whole of India.

LOKAPRAKASAM

The *Lokaprakasam*, Trichur, dated May 12, 1941, observes:—

The news of the impending retirement of *Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza M. Ismail, K.C.I.E., O.B.E.,

from the Dewanship of Model Mysore has given a rude and surprising shock to the public who have for long witnessed the great and distinguishing services rendered to the State by Sir Mirza Ismail during his Dewanship since 1926, which he has discharged with exceptional talents and ability. Wherever one might turn in flourishing Mysore, there is abundant evidence of Sir Mirza's great and continual care for the happiness, contentment and lasting prosperity of the seven million subjects of Mysore, and the State in general. The several irrigation projects, industrial concerns, hospitals, beautiful gardens, smiling fields, agricultural schemes—all these have so much increased the economic prosperity of the masses of Mysore, and these bear abundant testimony to Sir Mirza's commendable initiative and great perseverance. If to-day Mysore can boast of a network of well-planned industries giving work to the skilled and unskilled labour, a number of Hydro-electric schemes extending to the people in the villages and the towns alike all sorts of modern amenities, a class of contented people, and beautiful and healthy surroundings, it is entirely due to the sheer enthusiasm, energy and humaneness of the miracle man of Mysore, Sir Mirza, whose consuming passion has been, and is, "love for Mysore".

It is common knowledge that Sir Mirza enjoyed in an abundant measure the well-merited confidence of the late Maharajah Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur, the great Ruler of Mysore, whose closing days witnessed the fruition

of several schemes of industrial expansion, in addition to the scheme of the Constitutional Reforms in Mysore. As is too well-known, His Highness's demise at an untimely hour has much affected Sir Mirza, who was greatly attached to the late Sri Krishnarajendra, by his sincere affection and mutual understanding. May be that Sir Mirza, a staunch Mysorean right through, who relinquishes the Dewanship by the close of this month, needs rest from the official cares and perplexities, but that it should have come so soon after the advent of the young Ruler is, indeed, a matter for regret.

But whatever the reasons, and whatever other circumstances, we fervently hope that Sir Mirza's exceptional talents and ripe experience of men and things, so successfully gained will not be lost to the State and the subject altogether. No doubt, the public life of both India and Indian India now sadly demand the advice and guidance of such clever administrators and we may be sure that his valuable knowledge and experience gained in the long past will not run to waste in unprofitable channels and that he will receive sufficient encouragement to enter heart and soul into the public life of the country at this critical period of her progressive march.

LONDON TIMES

The *London Times*, in its issue dated May 29, 1941, observes as follows:—

Sir Mirza Ismail's retirement next Saturday from the Dewanship of Mysore will bring to a

close an official association with the "Model State" which has extended over 35 years, the last 15 of them as Prime Minister.

From boyhood Sir Mirza was the close friend of the venerated Maharaja Sir Krishnaraja Wadiyar, who died last August, and he was successively the Maharaja's Huzur Secretary and Private Secretary. Sir Mirza Ismail was appointed Dewan in 1926. His five years' term was twice renewed, and he retires at the close of the third term.

The combination of Ruler and Minister was a happy one, for there was complete understanding between them in seeking the common good by a policy of amelioration and progress which won the admiration of all qualified observers. It may be hoped that the young Maharaja, who is known to be a man of capacity and high ideals for his people, will be fortunate in the choice of a successor. Mysore's loss of a great administrator should be the gain of India as a whole, for Sir Mirza has gifts fitting him to take a conspicuous part in shaping the future of the country in the critical days of war and reconstruction.

MADRAS MAIL

The *Madras Mail*, in its issue dated Sunday, May 11, 1941, observed in an article headed "A Surprise":—

To-day brings news of the impending retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail, the distinguished Dewan

of Mysore. The reason for this early and unexpected departure of Sir Mirza from an office to which he has brought exceptional talents is not given. It may fairly be said, however, that Mysore has been well served by its departing Dewan. Throughout the State there is evidence of his continual care for the well-being of its people, and thought for its lasting prosperity. Its roads, its villages, its great irrigation projects, its numerous hospitals, and schools, in these and other directions we see the result of his initiative, and of his perseverance. If Mysore to-day is industrially one of the most advanced parts of India, the reason is largely to be sought in the encouragement given by Sir Mirza Ismail to industrial pioneering. Nor has he neglected agriculture. It too, has benefited by his shrewd judgment and wise pre-vision.

It is common knowledge that Sir Mirza was greatly affected by the death of the late Maharaja, to whom he was attached by ties of deep affection and mutual understanding. Together they achieved much for which Mysore is grateful. Whatever the reason for his retirement, Mysore will, we feel certain, hope that his exceptional talents will not be altogether lost to the State, but that he will remain at hand to give the Maharaja the benefit of his ripe experience. He needs no monument to his work in the State. Its principal towns, Bangalore and Mysore, and the considerable improvements effected therein, are adequate memorial of his wise administration.

MALABAR HERALD

The *Malabar Herald*, Cochin, in its issue dated May 24, 1931, remarks:—

Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore, is relinquishing his office on 1st June, after an eventful *regime*. He is undoubtedly a man of great parts and attainments, and to him goes the credit of having put Mysore on the map of the world, as the Model Indian State, where the prosperity of the people has been carefully promoted through a process of progressive industrialization. His resignation is a definite loss to Mysore. It appears that differences of opinion occurred over the suggested automobile industry in that State, and that the Durbar did not consider the guaranteed returns from the industry and the scheme, as a whole, as justifying the huge investment that it needed just at present. The result was the resignation. Sir Mirza's presence would have been of great help in the inauguration of the new reforms of the State, since it was he who, along with the late Maharaja, conceived of the scheme as a fit solution to adjust satisfactorily the communal problems of the State. It is hoped, however, that the services of Sir Mirza will be available to the State in his non-official capacity.

Sir Mirza's resignation has a significant side to it that cannot be allowed to slip off unnoticed. It is a great constitutional precedence that he has set. Democracy is in essence a rule of harmony, and constitutional monarchy, more so. Therefore, as soon as it was felt that there is difference of

opinion existing between the Ruler and his Minister, the latter has chosen to resign. It is a healthy indication of progressive constitutionalism. From this position to the responsibility of the Dewan to the Sovereign and the Legislature the distance is only very little, and we are sure that this responsibility to the Maharaja and his Legislature will come about in the course of the next few years.

MODERN TIMES

The *Modern Times*, in its issue dated May 24, 1941, remarks:—

The rumour-report of Sir Mirza Ismail's sudden retirement from the Dewanship of Mysore has now been duly confirmed. It is unfortunate that the services of this sagacious statesman and great administrator could no longer be at the disposal of his young Ruler. Let us hope, however, that Mysore's loss may prove India's gain.

NAGPUR TIMES

The *Nagpur Times*, Nagpur, in its issue dated May 14, 1941, remarked:—

Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, has tendered his resignation. That the laying down of his office, with effect from May 31, is the result of difference of opinion with His Highness the Maharaja on some vital questions affecting the future of the State is surprising. The turning

down by the Durbar of the proposal for the establishment of an automobile factory in Mysore is believed to be one of the causes. Difference of views was also reported regarding the appointment of non-official Ministers to the Mysore Executive Council. The acceptance of the resignation and the nomination of Sir Mirza's successor to office show that His Highness the Maharaja was firm as well as prompt in his decision. Whatever be the nature of the difference of opinion between the Ruler and the Dewan there will be regret at the disappearance of a tried and trusted captain from the bridge of the ship of State at a time when careful piloting is necessary to steer clear of the rocks and rapids that lie ahead. Since his assumption of office, Mysore has made rapid strides in progress. The many industrial ventures in the country owe their origin to the genius and foresight of Sir Mirza Ismail. For Mysore's place to-day in the forefront of the rank of progressive States in India Sir Mirza's able control of the administrative machinery is responsible. To hold consecutively for 16 years the office of Dewan is in itself a testimony to his qualities of head and heart. His retirement from service while a loss to the Mysore Government need not necessarily be a loss to the country at large. A veteran statesman of his tact and talent is not likely to waste his undoubted abilities in the seclusion of retirement. His proved abilities in cementing Hindu-Muslim relations and thorough grasp of constitutional machinery should enable him to devote the rest of his life in the wider interest of his motherland.

In that case Mysore's loss can very well be India's gain.

NEW INDIA

New India, in its issue dated May 19, 1941, says:—

Sir Mirza Ismail is retiring from the Dewan-ship of Mysore after holding it since 1926 with conspicuous success. Sir Mirza enjoyed the full confidence of the late Maharaja. . . . Sir Mirza's impending retirement has evoked tributes to his work for Mysore from all parts of India which are fully merited.

ORACLE

The *Oracle*, in its issue dated May 21, 1941, remarks:—

News of the retirement of Sir M. Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, will be received by all with mixed feelings of surprise and regret especially when it comes at a time when the new reforms are to be introduced in the State and the Empire as a whole is facing a terrible war situation. As one belonging to the minority community he was perfectly above party of communal politics and his aim throughout his glorious career was devoted to the amelioration of the masses of the State and the establishment of many new industrial concerns. The beautifying of cities like Mysore, Bangalore, etc., after the fashion of the West engaged his

attention as also the rural and agricultural developments. Few only are gifted to wield the destinies of states and among them stands unassailed Sir M. Ismail, whose name will ever remain associated with many and varied activities of the State. He will long live to see that his cherished object to found a motor industry in the State coming to prominence with the growth of favourable conditions.

PARASAKTHI

The *Parasakthi*, Bangalore, in its issue for May 1941, writes:—

The sudden and unexpected news that Sir Mirza M. Ismail relinquishes his office as the Dewan of Mysore on the last day of the month of May 1941, has been received by the whole of India and his innumerable friends abroad with bitter disappointment and profound sorrow. Sir Mirza is a statesman of a very rare type and a successful administrator. His one ambition is the progress of Mysore both materially and morally. This he has achieved to a very appreciable extent. Every drop of his precious blood and every atom of his energy and skill has been sacrificed at the altar of the progress of Mysore. To say laconically Mysore is Mirza and Mirza is Mysore. This is the very reason why these two names are almost alike. To-day Mysore stands foremost industrially among the Indian States, which is chiefly due to Sir Mirza's untiring exertion and unbounded patriotism.

During the past fifteen years the State has progressed by leaps and bounds. The State has become the home of small and large industries. All-round improvements of the State materially, morally and economically are the standing monuments of progress. His winsome manners and sympathetic treatment of the poor and the suffering and the help and aid rendered to the needy have all become proverbial. Most of the good qualities rarely found in others are permanently found in Sir Mirza. His toleration towards all religions has brought him the title "Kabir of Mysore". Orthodox Hindus have found in him a very good champion of their cause and his memory is ever green in their hearts. All the good deeds done by him could not easily be narrated here, but the progress of Mysore would serve as a standing monument to prove them. May God grant him long life, robust health and prosperity.

PIONEER

The *Pioneer*, in an article headed "A Great Dewan", in its issue dated May 20, 1941, said:—

There will be widespread regret at the premature retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore. For some sixteen years he has served the State with a single-minded devotion to the interests of the people and of the ruling dynasty. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru did not exaggerate the achievements of this great Dewan when, paying tribute to his stewardship, he said: "In recent

years the prosperity and fame of Mysore have been bound up with the personality of Sir Mirza Ismail." It was mainly due to his administrative ability and unerring vision that Mysore won the proud privilege of being known as a Model State. A man of great culture and progressive ideas, Sir Mirza Ismail is respected both by critics and friends, and has long been regarded as a front-rank politician and statesman. It is a pity that he did not find it possible to continue in his post at least until 1943, when his term was due to expire. There are critical days ahead of the Indian States, and we can but hope that some other sphere of usefulness will be found for a man of Sir Mirza's great talents and unassailable integrity. Mysore's only consolation at this time can be found in the personality of his successor. Mr. N. Madhava Rao has also rendered devoted and efficient service to the State over a long period of time.

PRINCE

The *Prince*, Lahore, in its issue dated May 20, 1941, says:—

Unexpected has happened. Sir Mirza M. Ismail has resigned after serving as Dewan of Mysore for 16 years. He started his life as Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1905, became Private Secretary to His late Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar in 1916 and appointed as Dewan in May 1928.

Mysore can well be placed on the top of all the Indian States so far its progressive administration and its industrial progress are considered. All credit for it goes to Sir Mirza. He is considered to be the most efficient administrator and a statesman of rare acumen and great genius, this is why Mysore State Secretariat has, for some-time past, been a Training College for the Ruling Princes in India.

With the great industries that are already flourishing in Mysore, there was a proposal to establish an automobile factory in the State. Sir Mirza differed with the Ruler and his colleagues on certain details and was compelled to resign.

This is all very sad.

PRINCELY INDIA

Princely India, Bombay, dated May 11, 1941, says:—

We learn with profound surprise and sorrow that Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, has tendered his resignation and His Highness the Maharaja has accepted it. For the past sixteen years Sir Mirza has been ceaselessly labouring for the welfare and prosperity of the State, and to-day Mysore occupies the most unique place among the Indian States in every respect. Mysore leads not only other States but British India as well in education, trade, commerce, industry, rural uplift, etc. As a statesman, industrialist and economic expert

few men in this country can cope with the Dewan of Mysore. He is above all a gentleman in the true sense of the word with a generous and sympathetic heart. Though a Moslem, his public career as the head of Administration of one of the largest States in the country, has been quite free from any communal bias. He has been loved more by Hindus than Moslems. All his words and works bear the stamp of originality. He is a true friend of all people, irrespective of their caste or political creed. Even his worst opponents cannot but admire his great virtues of simplicity, humility and sincerity.

Sir Mirza's record of achievements in Mysore will cover many volumes and the Mysoreans can never afford to forget him as the greatest of all Dewans their State has ever had. His resignation and its acceptance by the Ruler of the State is, in our humble opinion, a great calamity in view of the present restlessness and confusion prevailing all over the world. His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore is still very young. He requires the advice and assistance of a Dewan of sterling character, and of vast experience in statecraft. And no other man can fill the gap that has occurred by the resignation of Sir Mirza, so ably and irreproachably as the latter. At a time when the whole world is heading towards a crisis, each State and country should retain the services of men of proved ability and brave hearts as Great Britain has in Mr. Churchill. We wish His Highness the young Maharaja of Mysore had changed his mind and persuaded Sir Mirza

Ismail to remain at least for a year or two as the Dewan of the State.

RAST-RAHBAR

The *Rast-Rahbar*, Bombay, observed on Saturday, May 17, 1941:—

With the resignation of Sir Mirza Ismail as Dewan of Mysore the State has lost one of the most valuable advisers and the Parsis in the State especially a real friend and supporter of their just demands. Sir Mirza had during the brief span of his Dewanship endeared himself to his people by the introduction of a number of healthy reforms which made Mysore one of the foremost Indian States. After the late Mr. J. H. Bhabha whose obituary notice we most regretfully took in one of our previous issues to the Parsis, the name of Sir Ismail had become a regular hall-mark both for the affability of his nature and the broad-mindedness of social outlook he reflected on their various problems. Sir Ismail started service in Mysore State only as a subordinate police official and then by dint of labour and industry achieved his way to success till he at last rose to occupy the highest office in the gift of the Maharaja of Mysore. The ability with which he conducted the complex affairs of an Indian state populated by different classes and creeds of people to all of whom he gave perhaps the best of love and justice he could command, redounds greatly to his credit and will ensure his way to similar eminence in other

walks of life or in other states. We are specially indebted to the late Dewan Saheb for the judicious way in which he held the scales even between the two rival camps of Parsees in the South during what is known as the Bangalore Tower of Silence imbroglio. Justice was done to us at the hand of Sir Mirza Ismail.

SUNDAY STATESMAN

The *Sunday Statesman*, Calcutta, in its issue dated May 18, 1941, remarked as follows:—

It now looks certain that Sir Mirza Ismail is retiring from his position as Dewan of Mysore at the end of this month. There is reason to believe that this is a sudden development, unforeseen until a news agency first announced it a week ago. Rumour had been busy in the past few weeks nominating a successor; but there were indications that he would continue in office till the end of this year if not longer. Rumour is now busy ascribing reasons for the step he has taken; into these it is unprofitable to enter. Sir Mirza has served Mysore brilliantly as Dewan for fifteen years; he rose to this position after many years in Mysore's Civil Service. He is a Mysorean and no outsider. To him the State owes much in industrial, political and social progress. He it was who helped to make Mysore known to the Empire. Apart from his position as Dewan of a large State he has been an all-India figure by reason of his participation in the labours of the Round Table Conference and

his interest in things that are of importance to the whole of India. His retirement is a loss to Mysore at a moment when it is about to inaugurate a new constitution. It may, however, be a gain to India as a whole should he decide to bring to it in some public capacity the fruits of his long experience as administrator and his large and many-sided culture.

TIMES OF INDIA

The *Times of India*, in its issue dated May 3, 1941, said:—

In Sir Mirza Ismail Mysore State had a Dewan who by his imagination and industry did much to gain for Mysore the proud title of India's Model State, and his resignation after sixteen years will be widely regretted. Dewans of Indian States, however eminent, are rarely all-India figures. Sir Mirza Ismail's reputation extended well beyond the confines of Mysore and at the Round Table Conference in London ten years ago his marked ability pointed him out not only as an able administrator but as a practical patriot with great courage and commonsense. It was Sir Mirza Ismail's contention during the unfortunate dispute with the State Congress that in practice he was a more progressive nationalist than any Congressman in Mysore. The claim was justified.

Mysore has been fortunate in her long line of able Dewans, and to Sir Mirza Ismail particularly the State owes its present industrial prosperity.

Mysore's rich resources are among its most precious assets. In developing them Sir Mirza Ismail had to face the criticism which invariably assails pioneers in every field, but the many thriving industrial enterprises which Mysore boasts to-day vindicate his determination and foresight. Nor did commerce alone absorb his attention as Dewan. The ryot's welfare was among Sir Mirza Ismail's first interests, and Mysore's scheme of rural reconstruction with its model villages, equipped with schools, dispensaries and co-operative societies, is a tribute to the Dewan's practical outlook and enthusiasm. There was not an aspect of State activity which did not benefit from Sir Mirza Ismail's revivifying touch. Beauty does not always accompany prosperity but during his period as Dewan Sir Mirza Ismail made of Mysore a noble and majestic city, worthy to rank as a model for town-planners in India.

The resignation of this distinguished administrator ends an association of over thirty-five years with Mysore State. For sixteen of these years Sir Mirza Ismail served as Dewan. Between him and the late Maharajah there existed the closest ties of friendship and confidence. Sir Mirza's term of office should ordinarily have ended in January 1943, and its abrupt closure will be widely regretted. As a faithful steward he deserved well of Mysore State, which he served so long and so well.

VARTHAGA OOLIAN

The *Varthaga Oolian*, dated May 1941, observes:—

The retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail from the Dewanship of Mysore State would be viewed with regret by all who look to the further industrial and economic advancement of that State and India in general. Sir Mirza has been at the helm of the State for nearly fifteen years and though the inauguration of an industrial and economic policy for the State and the necessary initial work had been begun very early by the late Maharaja and his early advisers and Dewans, Sir Mirza's name will long be remembered by all as one who identified himself with the industrial and economic advancement of the State. More, he interested himself in all aspects of State's life and strove much to improve its status.

We hope also that Sir Mirza would continue to take interest in the welfare of the State he served so well and for so long and place his rich experience and knowledge at the disposal of the State's Government whenever occasion demands it.

WEALTH AND WELFARE

Wealth and Welfare, in its issue for June 6, 1941, observes:—

Sir Mirza Ismail, for reasons unknown and unstated, has resigned his job. He has to go on a year's leave preparatory to retirement. Whatever reasons may be attributed to this action of his,

there is the standing fact that his departure from the office at this time of the country is really deplorable. Mysore has improved a lot within the last one decade industrially..... Some say that the resignation of the Dewan has something to do with the dropping of the scheme of motor industry in Mysore! While North India is said to be attracting the presence of the Dewan to take an active part in bringing about an understanding between the Hindus and the Muslims! Anyway the retiring Dewan is a Mysorean first and then only a Muslim. He can look back with pride about his successful administration and the good he has done to his State which no other Indian State-Dewan can claim, as most of them are not the subjects of the States they serve. We wish Sir Mirza a long life and prosperity and good achievement in the field of Indian politics where his capabilities, intelligence, wide experience and statesmanship will shine very well.

WHIP

The *Whip*, Calcutta, in its issue dated May 19, 1941, observed as follows:—

Not only Mysore will regret the demission of his office by Sir Mirza Ismail. Indian States have had able Dewans in the past but it was given to few of them to achieve so much as Sir Mirza was able to do for Mysore. There is always something slightly irritating in having someone or something being frequently held up as a model to others but

Mysore's claim to be a Model State has been admitted with unreluctant admiration. If Sir Mirza has any detractors—we do not know of any—even they will concede that Mysore owes a debt to Sir Mirza Ismail which it will be hard to repay.

Sir Mirza may be said to have had a dual policy. He planned for to-morrow and for posterity. The constitutional reforms were devised to hasten political progress at a pace compatible with safety but we believe it was the industrial expansion of the State which was nearest to his heart. Industrial expansion meant the prosperity of the people and it is a truism that even the most admirably framed constitutions are no substitute for the contentment of the people. Electricity, silk, iron, coffee, these and many more of earth's plenty, have enriched the State and its people and but for the Dewan's carefully planned and courageously executed policy of industrial development the earth may still be keeping these treasures in its womb.

The tributes to Sir Mirza Ismail from the press as well as leaders and public men of eminence have swelled into a chorus and regret at his impending departure has been sincere and universal. Writing at the time of H. H. the Maharajah's accession we referred to the goodly heritage he had come into and also to the valuable legacy that his predecessor had bequeathed to him in the person of his trusted and loyal servant, the Dewan. Rumour is busy about Sir Mirza and the identity of his successor: we find it hard to believe that the Maharajah, who, though young in years, is a man

of great perception, will be willing to terminate Sir Mirza's long and honourable association with the State which he has served with single-minded devotion. Were His Highness to persuade his Dewan to withdraw his resignation we are sure that the Maharajah will be taking a step which will have the universal approval, not only of all Mysore, but of all of Mysore's many friends and well-wishers.

CHAPTER II

PERSONAL OPINIONS

SIR ALLADI KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR

Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyar, Advocate-General, Madras, interviewed on Sir Mirza Ismail's retirement from the Dewanship of Mysore, said:—

The impending retirement of Sir Mirza coming so shortly after the death of the late Ruler of Mysore will be viewed with regret by all interested in the prosperity and well-being of a State which has earned the distinction of a Model State in several respects. The news is all the more unwelcome as the resignation is on the eve of an important step being taken by Mysore in the direction of introducing representative government in the State.

During the period of his Dewanship he has not merely given a further impetus to the industrial schemes inaugurated by some of his distinguished predecessors, which saw their fruition during his time, but has followed up the policy of industrial expansion by new schemes which are sure to be of lasting benefit to the State and its people. There is no side of the development of Mysore in recent years in which Sir Mirza has not taken a personal interest, whether it is the beautifying of its great cities and parks, laying out of new roads with splendid avenues, the opening of new hospitals at wayside stations, or the development

of cottage industries, and the building of residential quarters for workmen. While he was keen on industrial expansion he was not oblivious to the paramount interest of agriculture and to forestry as a necessary adjunct to agriculture and industry. There can be no more eloquent commentary to his passionate patriotism for Mysore and his loyalty to the reigning House than his broadcast sometime ago on 'Mysore and its future'.

It is impossible not to be attracted by the charm of his personality and his rare capacity to make anyone at home in his company and feel his friendliness to which glowing tribute is rightly paid by our distinguished countryman, the Rt.-Hon. Srinivasa Sastri. It is hoped that notwithstanding his retirement from office, his sage counsel and advice will be available to the State.—(*The Hindu*, May 4, 1941.)

MISS CORNELIA SORABJI

Miss Cornelia Sorabji writing under date May 30, 1941, in *The Times* says:—

The retirement of the Prime Minister of Mysore, Sir Mirza Ismail, announced in *The Times* of May 29, may well prove the determining factor in the present political Gandhi-Jinnah impasse, since it releases for possible service on Sir T. B. Saprú's proposed central executive the one man in All-India who has helped to disprove Congress inhibitions, both about the way that communal unity might be achieved and the attitude towards progress of the independent States.

(1) Sir Mirza Ismail, a Moslem, and the late Maharaja, a Hindu, found perfect unity in working together for a common cause while retaining their individual differences. (2) The late Maharaja was a devout orthodox Hindu. Orthodox Hinduism as practised by the masses is, in itself, against progress. The Maharaja and his Prime Minister made Mysore the most progressive of States—its administration, its social and industrial welfare ahead even of British India itself. And this was done without political dispeace or anti-religious propaganda. Mr. Gandhi sought to bring about progress by his *Praja Sabhas*, the political organizations of subjects against their rulers, and by the attempt of Congress to set another man's house (the States' Administration) in order, against that man's will. Did space permit I could illustrate these statements. (3) The Mysore Government, while not approving Congress principles, yet made it possible for Congress representatives in Mysore to present the Congress Party view, within the State, but by a miracle of tact and understanding was strong enough to prevent inter-communal and Provincial *versus* State dispeace.

Mysore, in fact, under the leadership of Sir Mirza Ismail, exemplified what we believe the Commonwealth stands for in the world to-day—namely, that freedom includes the right to retain individuality—and that all communities in India can combine for the good of the whole, without losing characteristics of whatever nature, when bound together by the cement of loyalty to wise leadership, and the love of something outside one's

self which is greater than one's self. In Mysore that "something" was the State and the late Maharaja. In British India why should it not equally be India itself—party politics, racial animosity, all else in abeyance?—(*Times*, May 30, 1941.)

SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, interviewed at Ootacamund on May 11, 1941, by *The Hindu* representative, on Sir Mirza M. Ismail's retirement from the Dewanship of Mysore, observed:—

Sir Mirza's retirement will be received with regret by all who have watched his career and work in Mysore. It is rarely given to an administrator to enjoy such plenary confidence and support as was evinced by the late Maharaja of Mysore in Sir Mirza.

Mysore has been fortunate in having had a long succession of notable statesmen who have guided the destinies of that State, the greatest of them indubitably being Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar. What Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar was able to achieve against much opposition, Sir Mirza was able to do in an atmosphere of harmony and peace. He continued and supplemented the great work of wise industrialisation and construction of great irrigation projects, which the State owes to Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar and Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

Great as his contribution in these directions is, Sir Mirza's administration will, probably, be

appreciated most for the beautification of the two Cities, Bangalore and Mysore,—a task at which he and the Ruler worked incessantly to the lasting benefit of the State. Sir Mirza has furnished an example of loyal devotion, perfect courtesy and all those qualities which make a splendid host. One feels sure that the services of an energetic personality like his should be utilised in the public life of the country.—(*The Hindu*, May 12, 1941.)

SIR P. S. SIVASWAMI AIYAR

Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar, in the course of an interview by the representative of *The Hindu*, said:—

I am sorry to hear that Sir Mirza Ismail's term of office as Dewan will come to a close at the end of this month. It is a great loss to the State, for, in him it loses a Dewan of ripe experience, mature wisdom, sound statesmanship, breadth of outlook, and fine culture. No Mysorean can be a greater lover of the State or a greater Indian patriot. Sir Mirza is every inch of him a gentleman and few must be the people, in or outside Mysore, who have not been impressed by the charm of his manners, his capacity for friendship and his genial hospitality. With his knowledge of the conditions of the State and his deep sympathy with its people, and his desire to promote the industrial prosperity and all-round progress of the State and the beautification of its cities and towns, it is no wonder that

he has endeared himself to all classes and creeds in the State. From his personal point of view, he will, I am sure, be glad to be relieved of the arduous burdens and responsibilities of his office which he has held with such success and distinction for a period of fifteen years. His name will be inscribed on the rolls of the great Dewans who have contributed to the building up of Mysore as a model State.—(*The Hindu*, May 13, 1941.)

RT.-HON. V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI, P.C., C.H.

Interviewed at Madras on May 11, 1941, on the news that Sir Mirza Ismail is shortly retiring from the Dewanship of Mysore, the Rt.-Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri said:—

Sir Mirza Ismail's retirement must make a great change for Mysore. He has not been a Dewan of the ordinary type. With the fascinating and highly polished manners and hospitality which anticipated all your wants and left you without a care Sir Mirza could have won all hearts, even if he had had no other virtue and no other charm, but he had every other virtue and every other charm besides.

Sir Mirza Ismail read widely, pondered deeply, took wisdom wherever it was to be found and watched the good of the people with sleepless vigilance. To great natural ability, he added the advantages of frequent travel abroad and friendship and conversation of the most wise and mighty men both in Britain and in India. He had all the

details of administration at his fingers' ends and could issue orders on the spot, sometimes to the dismay of the officers concerned.

I have never known him weary of work, or weighed down with pre-occupation. Ever fresh, never caught unawares or napping, it was a marvel how seldom he fell below a high level of correctness and efficiency in daily administration. Affable without condescension, cheerful without vulgarity, he could exercise his influence on high and low with equal ease. In anxiety to be just and sympathetic, to promote the beauties of urban or the amenities of rural life, to secure to Mysore the full benefit of all its resources, industrial as well as agricultural, to attract the tourist and make him sing the praises of the State all over the world, to establish the fame for kingly merit of his friend and patron, the late Maharaja, on the rock of benign services—in anxiety to perform the myriad tasks of this supreme ideal, I cannot think of his equal in my wide experience.

If I add that allowing for a few mistakes and blemishes from which human nature is not exempt, Sir Mirza has exercised almost unlimited powers for the long space of fifteen years without malice or petty persecution but in a spirit of charity and kindness which made no great differences between sect and sect or interest and interest. I pay a tribute deserved by few others endowed with far-reaching power over their brethren and boundless opportunities for moulding their lives for good or for ill.—(*The Hindu*, May 12, 1941.)

RT.-HON. SIR TEJ BAHADUR SAPRU, P.C.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in a statement to *The Hindu*, dated Allahabad, May 16, 1941, said:—

The news of the impending retirement of Sir M. Ismail from the Dewanship of Mysore, has, I believe, been received with universal regret all over India. Mysore has had the good luck of enjoying the services of some of the most distinguished Dewans. In recent years its prosperity and fame in this country and outside have been bound up with the personality of Sir Mirza. I saw a good deal of Sir M. Ismail during the sessions of the Round Table Conference in London. Invariably he cast his influence on the side of peace and harmony between different communities. I could always count on his support for anything that was progressive, and for everything which was calculated to bring India nearer her cherished goal. A perfect gentleman, with most polished and elegant manners, he represents the type of cultured and broad-minded Muslim statesman who would, in any province, command the unstinted confidence of every community. He was my guest here two months ago, and what pleasure it was to have his company. If there were a few more Mirza Ismails in the country, our future might be very different.—(*The Hindu*, May 17, 1941.)

MR. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR

In an interview granted to the representative of *The Hindu*, Mr. C. Vijayaragavachariar, ex-President of the Indian National Congress and the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, paid a high tribute to the statesmanship of the retiring Dewan of Mysore, Sir Mirza M. Ismail.

When his attention was invited to the contemplated relinquishment Mr. Achariar was very much affected. He said that His Highness Sri Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur was a born gentleman and a worthy link in the line of brilliant Sovereigns of that Model State. Therefore, he could not at all understand how Sir Mirza Ismail, to whom the name and fame of the reign of His Highness's Royal uncle was in no small degree due, could now come to relinquish the Dewanship.

Mr. Achariar further observed: "He is a man admired and loved by all Mysore subjects of every creed and caste. If Mr. Amery can forget himself momentarily and will allow India to become a Dominion in the Commonwealth of the British Empire, the first Viceroy which the King-Emperor of India can appoint, to represent himself best, would be, Sir M. M. Ismail of Bangalore."

In conclusion Mr. Achariar paid a tribute to the national outlook of the retiring Dewan of Mysore, who had always risen above party or communal questions.

SIR M. VISVESVARAYA

Sir M. Visvesvaraya, on learning of the resignation, said:—

It is a sad day for Mysore. Mysore has missed the bus. The position can never be retrieved. Sir Mirza was a great patriot.—(*The Indian Express*, May 12, 1941.)

CHAPTER III

SELECT SKETCHES AND CHARACTERIZATIONS

BOMBAY CHRONICLE

Mr. E. G. Nair, in a long article in the *Bombay Chronicle*, dated May 29, 1941, says:—

In its unfortunate decision not to support the establishment of an automobile industry in Bangalore, the Mysore State has suffered a two-fold loss—it has lost the invaluable services of its popular and distinguished Dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail, and it has lost a unique opportunity of having a first class automobile factory in the State. Either of these would be a calamity and the two jointly constitute a tragedy.

Sir Mirza's resignation, according to newspaper reports, was occasioned by the decision of the Durbar in withholding the support which was promised to the originators of the scheme. Sir Mirza, it is stated, had given his cent per cent support to the scheme. It had further the blessings and full support of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, a tried and trusted servant of the State. How a scheme, eminently beneficial to the State from an industrial and economic point of view, supported by its popular Dewan, came to be torpedoed at the eleventh hour requires explanation on the part of the authorities.

Although several rumours are afloat regarding the causes which led Sir Mirza to sever his connection with the State as its Dewan, I am inclined to believe that the real cause of his resignation was the clash of opinion over the establishment of an automobile industry. And incidentally it may be mentioned that but for a compelling reason Sir Mirza Ismail would not have resigned. He was committed to the scheme and he knew it would usher in an era of prosperity to the State. Furthermore it was going to be a national industry—the first of its kind in India and, therefore, it deserved all possible support and encouragement. When the stage was almost set for the establishment of a factory and everything promised well, that the Durbar should have come out with an emphatic “no” was certainly disappointing and humiliating to the Dewan. No self-respecting and patriotic Dewan could tolerate such a situation and no wonder Sir Mirza informed the Maharaja in courteous language of his unwillingness to continue as the Dewan of the State.

In this connection, I cannot resist the temptation of reproducing a conversation which I had with the Dewan about a couple of years back.

I questioned him why he had been paying so much attention to the industrial progress to the detriment of rural development.

In his characteristically polite manner, he told me that I was wrong in thinking that the Mysore State was not doing its best for rural reconstruction. He then gave details of rural reconstruction schemes of the State. Proceeding, he said, “I

would, however, like to impress on you that in the present age, no country or State can afford to ignore its industrial progress". With an apt illustration from the Arabian Nights, he explained to me what he meant. I cannot do better than reproduce his exact words. He said: "Those who hope that their States or countries will be prosperous and rich without knocking at the industries will find themselves as much mistaken as Cassium in the Arabian Nights who stood crying 'open wheat, open barley' to the door which obeyed no sound but 'open sesame'." Concluding he said: "The surest of all open sesames to the wealth of a country is industrial progress." There was a ring of genuine conviction in these words and I feel sure that it was this strong conviction which led to his resignation.

Several distinguished Indians from Mysore and outside have paid glowing tributes to Sir Mirza and no wonder: He has made Mysore the Model State in India and he has become a bye-word for a model Dewan. He enjoyed plenary confidence and support of the late lamented Maharaja and he won the esteem and affection of all the subjects of the State, rich and poor alike.

That he became a model Dewan is no fluke or chance. It was the result of administrative reforms and industrial policy, planned out with scientific precision and carried out with mathematical accuracy. Even to catalogue the numerous administrative reforms he introduced during his 16 years of Dewanship would fill columns. Suffice it to say that he has proved a first rate

administrator gifted with rare imagination and initiative.

Sir Mirza's stewardship of the State will be written in letters of gold for he has made the State rich and prosperous. A forward and highly successful industrial policy has been the chief feature of his administration. He continued, perfected and supplemented the industrial policy set in motion by Sir K. Seshadri and Sir M. Visvesvaraya and brought into being a full-blast industrial policy by adding several new ventures such as the Mysore Soap Factory, Mysore Silk Factory and the Porcelain Factory to mention only a few. It is no exaggeration to say that Mysore is what it is largely, because of Sir Mirza Ismail.

The credit of the beautification of Mysore and Bangalore also largely goes to Sir Mirza. He is the architect and founder of the incomparable Brindavan Garden of Mysore. Laid out just under the stupendous Krishnarajasagar Dam, this enchanting garden, with its myriad silvery fountains, placid lakes, lovely waterways and tumbling cascades, present an enchanting sight. Truly these are great achievements of which any Dewan may feel justly proud but Sir Mirza has greater claims to the affections and esteem of his subjects. The secret of his popularity and success lies in his sterling character.

There are very few Mysoreans, who do not personally happen to know Sir Mirza. To meet a Dewan Sahib even of a third class State is no joke. He is generally unapproachable and only a favoured few will be granted *darshans*. Sir Mirza met

at more than one thousand citizens every month, gave them a patient hearing and listened to their complaints. And it should not be forgotten that more than 90 per cent. of these were middle class and poor citizens. Two days in the week were specially set apart for interviews. Anyone, with any grievance or representation was allowed to meet the Dewan and talk to him freely and frankly. No introduction, no references were wanted for these interviews. One had only to go to the office in the morning, fill in his name in the register and one was called according to his turn. If the complaints were genuine, Sir Mirza made a note of them and the applicant could be sure of immediate redress of his grievances. This personal touch in the administration added to its efficiency. The State subjects come to know about the sterling qualities of the Dewan, and the latter got first-hand information from his subjects.

Sir Mirza had a first-hand view of Bangalore every day of his life in the city. Every morning between 6 and 7-30, he religiously took a ride to several parts of the city. This was to him not only a daily exercise but a part of his official duty. Slowly, methodically he moved about from street to street, nothing escaping his watchful eyes. There was no knowing which route he might take a particular day. Last June, while I was having a morning walk, I saw Sir Mirza on his daily morning rounds. Suddenly he stopped and beckoned to a man at a distance. The latter, who seemed to be a sub-overseer, hurried to the Dewan when

the latter addressing him said: "I told you that these tiny stones on the footpath are a nuisance to the bare-footed pedestrians. Why didn't you attend to it?" "It will be attended to immediately", replied the latter. The good-looking horse on which he rode raised its head in the direction of the sub-overseer as if suggesting that he fully shared his master's view and would halt at every time a pebble touched his foot. It was in these manifold ways that Sir Mirza watched the good of the people with sleepless vigilance.

Till now Sir Mirza lived, moved and had his being in Mysore and now he goes to retirement but he should not allow his rich experience and mature wisdom to run to waste in retirement, though well-earned. Few persons are so well fitted to help in the solution of the Hindu-Muslim question as Sir Mirza. He is a friend of Congressmen and Muslim Leaguers; he enjoys the confidence of Liberals and others. Where others failed, Sir Mirza is likely to succeed. And in that attempt of his, he will have the best wishes of everyone.

CEYLON DAILY NEWS

The *Ceylon Daily News*, in its issue dated May 12, 1941, says:—

Sir Mirza M. Ismail, who retires from the office of the Dewan of Mysore after a tenure of fifteen years, was born to be a Minister. Nature moulded him to be an adviser of princes and men.

There is nothing of the superman in him to

mystify one. Sir Seshadri Iyer was his superior in intellect, vision and statesmanship; Sir Visvesvaraya was an abler administrator.

What then is the elusive thing about Sir Mirza? It is, I think, his disarming manners, his consummate courtesy and diplomacy.

Sir Mirza is a born courtier, and courtiers are ever elusive; he is a man of simple habits, and the simple things of life are always baffling; Sir Mirza is a man of action, and all men of action are puzzling in the extreme.

"Truth is a paradox", said a wise man of the West; so is greatness. Sir Mirza is a man of paradoxes.

He is an autocrat with democratic instincts; a dictator with a weakness for constitutions; a capitalist with socialist leanings; an idealist with an intense practical outlook and a dreamer with the astute mind of a businessman.

He is a most charming man but a stern and strict official; a perfect host and mixer but an indifferent friend. I wonder if among his large circle of acquaintances and admirers he had one bosom friend except, perhaps, the late Maharaja of Mysore.

Playmate of a Prince

Sir Mirza started his career under the best auspices. He was a playmate and friend of the Ruler of Mysore and grew up in the atmosphere of the Court. As a young man he became the trusted *confidante* of the Maharaja and later his Private Secretary. And when the office of the

Prime Minister fell vacant he stepped into it with the blessings of the Maharaja and the approval of the British Government in India.

The choice was a wise one, and Sir Mirza has justified the confidence reposed in him. He has been the most popular and progressive Premier Mysore has ever had. No Dewan before him, I venture to think, was so efficient and capable in day-to-day administration in so close contact with the real needs of the people.

Friend of the Villagers

He is a real friend of the villagers, and no Dewan before him took that keen practical interest that he evinces in their well-being. Sir Seshadri and Sir Visvesvaraya launched very ambitious schemes and aimed at making Mysore industrially prosperous but problems of rural reconstruction or village improvement did not attract their attention.

To Sir Mirza goes the credit of making Mysore a Model State, not only in beautifying the towns and cities to attract tourists, and starting small industries to make the State self-supporting, but in trying to improve the lot of the poor peasants and the neglected villagers.

His popularity is not a myth. He is really a very accessible person to all and sundry, and is an obliging head of a Government. The villager receives the same attention and care as any other high official in the State. He listens to their grievances and demands with patience and understanding, and no red-tape can stand between him and them.

In action he is quick, and often arbitrary. He seldom waits to be advised by his subordinates. He acts and acts on the spot and believes in getting things done. A rare phenomenon in official India where everything moves with the speed of a bullock-cart!

Never in a Hurry

It is amazing the amount of work he gets through in a single day, the number of people he interviews and the social functions he manages to attend. He is never in a hurry and everything works to a schedule, but with sufficient elasticity for emergencies. He is a hard worker and puts in as many as fourteen hours of work while at the headquarters or while travelling.

Sir Mirza is a much-travelled man. He has been to Europe several times. He doesn't travel for pleasure only; he travels for the sake of learning, to enrich himself so that he may give his best to the State.

He is very sensitive to beauty, and whatever impresses him in his travels is sure to be reflected in his beautifying of Mysore and Bangalore which is a life-long hobby with him.

He is no Utopian, this practical idealist Prime Minister, he is a realist with an international outlook; a man of action with the vision of a dreamer. His speeches and utterances ever breathe the lofty spirit of service and beauty and the many practical beneficent schemes that he has introduced in the State during his tenure of office indicate his ability to carry them out in practice.

Modern Mysore, which is the envy of the rest of India, is Sir Mirza's dream, pride and hope, and no one was more zealous of its future and greatness than this Muslim Minister of a great Hindu Kingdom.

DAILY NEWS

A writer in the *Daily News*, dated May 14, 1941, says:—

If Sir K. Seshadri Iyer dug the foundation of the New Mysore and Sir M. Visvesvaraya laid the foundation, Sir Mirza Ismail put up the super-structure.

I think this will be the impartial verdict of history, when recent events in the life of Mysore lose their edge and political recrimination and differences are willingly forgotten and buried.

If I were to be asked to sum up Sir Mirza's achievements as Mysore's Chief Executive for a decade-and-a-half I would say without hesitation, "He put Mysore on the map." If you are up in the north of India people ask you a thousand times whether you are a South Indian meaning a Madrasi. I have always replied with dignity, "No, a Mysorean". Sir Mirza has made that reply possible. With a remarkable social vision he has cleaned up and opened out Mysore. An English friend of mine, who visited Mysore last year, told me that Mysore gave him a new faith, faith in electricity as a solvent of social inequality. Sir Mirza has made Lenin's dream possible, realisable

—to give the kitchen-maid electricity as a help-mate—a semi-medieval Mysore, has, within the last two decades, emerged as a live and modern unit. Sir Mirza has demonstrated—a copy-book lesson to the rest of India—that given the will to industrialise, India need not continue to accept the imposed destiny of an economic backwater.

I do not think he has enemies. Politically, the lead his heart gave was not entirely acceptable to his mind. This made his approach appear one of contradictions and his liberalism illiberal. Seemingly anti-Congress he is a friend of Mahatma Gandhi. Whatever his political predilections, his infinite courtesy and humanity always held. Let us be grateful to him for that and for all that he has done for us.

Sir Mirza has chosen to lay down office. Let us thank him and record our appreciation, with one voice and in an all-Mysore voice. Whatever we are—Congressmen, politicians of no definable philosophy or visible label, industrialists, merchants, officers, students all of us—let us bid him a befitting farewell. Let us express our gratitude and assure him that we shall never forget him. He is so intensely Mysorean, of Mysore and for Mysore that, whether in office or out of office, he will be with us as long as he is alive. Let us pray that his should be the legitimate and complete span allotted to man. He has left us and his successor a heritage that demands honesty of purpose and constant and unceasing application. We shall judge him understandingly and we shall honour him.

DAILY POST

Mr. S. D. Venkata Ramanan in a lengthy notice in the *Daily Post*, Bangalore, observes:—

Sir Walter Lawrence in his book on "The India we served" has stated: "There is hardly an Indian State in which there have not been men of outstanding ability, great thinkers and men of initiative and action." It can be well said without any fear of contradiction that "Mysore's Statesmen have been among the greatest of India's sons." A cursory glance at the bright pages of Mysore's history from the time of Rendition in 1881 will reveal to any casual observer the long unbroken line of men of ability, and statecraft placed at the helm of affairs. Credit is due to Mr. C. Rangacharlu, C.I.E., the first of Mysore's Dewans, for sowing the seed of democratic form of government in Mysore by establishing a Representative Assembly, which we see now functioning to the maximum advantage of the Government of the "Model State". Next comes that illustrious personage, Sir K. Seshadri Ayyar, K.C.I.E., of unforgettable memory, whose manifold beneficent acts to the State could be seen even to this day in the Gold Mines of Kolar Gold Fields, Sivsamudram electric works, electric lighting throughout the State, the cotton and woollen mills, the development of silk industry—an indigenous one—and last but not the least, the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions that attract visitors from all parts of India, winning the admiration and unstinted praise from people abroad. The far-

seeing statesmanship of Sir Seshadri Ayyar could also be seen by one who has the eyes to see in the terms of agreement he entered into with the Government of Madras in regard to the sharing of the waters of the Cauvery over which there has of late been a discussion between the two Governments. The inviolability of the terms is proof of the capability and sagacity of an Indian Prime Minister who, were he born in any other self-governing dominions of the West or the East, would have filled well nigh a major portion of the history of the particular nation.

THE GALAXY OF DEWANS

Sir P. N. Krishnamurthi, K.C.I.E., Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., Mr. T. Ananda Rao, C.I.E., Sir M. Visvesvaraya, K.C.I.E., Sir M. Kantaraj Urs, Kt., C.I.E., Sir Albion Raj Kumar Banerjee, K.C.I.E., have all succeeded him, one after the other and everyone has filled an honoured place in the history and growth of Mysore carving out a niche for himself. The present Dewan is Sir Mirza Muhammad Ismail, B.A., C.I.E., O.B.E., who has been holding the high office of Mysore's Dewan for well nigh nearly eight long years, and of him, posterity will not fail to sing praise for his unremitting labours to make the State of Mysore occupy an exalted position in the Commonwealth of Nations that is in the making to-day, and for his unceasing endeavour to make the Government of Mysore a pucca democratic government granting to the subjects of the State every freedom and

affording every amenity that a good government—a paternal government—could possibly offer.

SIR MIRZA ISMAIL AND MYSORE

It is stated that the Lord Chancellor of England said at the concluding session of the Round Table Conference, referring to the contribution made by Sir Mirza Ismail to the labours of that august body, “his State is not only a pattern to India, but a pattern to the world”. No better words have been spoken about Mysore in that august assembly or elsewhere than when the Lord Chancellor gave expression to those laudatory terms of reference to Mysore. An Indian State, and that Mysore, of the many States in India—562 in all—to be singled out for this honour speaks volumes about the unceasing and untiring labours of the present Dewan to make the State *really* a “Model State”, wringing out praise from people who are very considerate in offering such praises.

MYSORE—“THE LAND OF GOLD”

Mysore, the “land of gold,” where “Nature-taught Art” abounds in plenty, and which is one of the places of visit of any globe-trotter or a statesman of the West to India, and which by its very topography far excels other parts of India in point of its rich agricultural and mineral resources, now occupies an honoured place in the history of nations, attracting to it the attention of everybody as regards its form of good government. the contentment and hearty and willing co-operation of its

subjects in every move which the Government takes for the well-being of the people. Only the other day, a representative of a Japanese firm doing extensive business in India having for its headquarters Calcutta, Mr. Muratoro Senda, who paid a visit to Mysore, almost in the sense of a pilgrimage to this most beautiful spot in India, having cherished that idea for a long time, expressed the utmost joy and appreciation in the following terms: "Mysore with its natural resources and the Government's help towards the development of industries in the State is the *only State in India* (mark the expression *only*) where there is ample scope for industrialisation, and the people in the State are extremely fortunate to serve under such a Government." When a foreigner, a casual visitor makes this weighty pronouncement after a careful study of the many places of industry, and of interest, and feels absolutely satisfied, is it any wonder then that the Dewan whose hand could be seen on every single piece of improvement effected for the contentment and well-being of the subjects, should be praised in such glowing terms? Whatever a small coterie of people in and outside the State might say against the present Dewan's efforts at making Mysore a really "Model State", it cannot be gainsaid that on what has been laid as the foundation stone by the late Sir Seshadri Ayyar, a fine superstructure was being raised on it by the long string of capable Dewans doing their wee little bit in a sterling manner, the present Dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail, contributing the coping stone to such a durable and beautiful edifice that has been

his special fortune to have during his regime of nearly eight years.

AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS HIGHNESS

Sir Mirza Ismail, whose name will be written in letters of gold by posterity was born in October 1883, a couple of years after the Rendition, and first entered as an Assistant Superintendent of Police in Mysore Service in 1905, and by dint of his merit rose to the position of a Huzur Secretary to His Highness in 1914, a coveted, yet a responsible position, and thereafter became the Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja in the year 1922. After serving in that capacity for four years, he was exalted to the present high office which the State could offer in the year 1926, succeeding Sir Albion Banerjee. It should be clearly understood that during his office as Huzur Secretary and Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja, which brought him into close and personal contact with the devout and saintly Ruler, helped him in becoming a close friend and a trusted adviser to him. The readiness and the willingness with which he placed himself at the service of the illustrious Prince, and the modesty and the simplicity with which he laid his views bearing on many an intricate State problem either concerning its constitutional procedure, statecraft or of diplomacy, made him the beloved of His Highness as well as the subjects of the State whose welfare has always been his chief concern throughout the term of his office till to-day. The success that attends his many schemes for the improvement of the State for the

improved condition of the average citizen residing in the State can only be attributed to his personal and close knowledge which he derived from a personal touch with the Maharaja, and the popularity which he weilds among the subjects of the State, all the several beneficent acts always actuated by certain high principles which have been the inspiration and guidance of His Highness.

A COSMOPOLITAN OUTLOOK

Sir Ismail has a cosmopolitan outlook on things can never be contradicted by any student of recent history who has watched him and his acts. His suave manners, his readiness to hear any grievances of any subject of the State, his willingness and readiness to redress such grievances, the easy accessibility with which any one could approach him on any matter, his patient hearing, his soft expression, and his dignified manners, are unique in themselves, and can only be the chief characteristics of a Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore. It was said of Raja Ram Mohan Roy that to a Hindu, he looked a Hindu, to a Moslem, he looked a Moslem, and to a Christian, he looked every inch a Christian, due to the cosmopolitan outlook and view of things pertaining to humanity as a whole, without any difference in caste, creed, sect or colour. The same can safely be applied with equal force to our Dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail. He makes no difference between a Moslem, a member of his own community, and a Hindu, a Christian and a Jew, but on the other hand, he is alike to all, respecting and holding in highest

regard the religious scruples of each community and wounding none. In the many accounts of his tours in the interior of the State year after year, published in our columns from time to time, it could be seen that when studying the conditions of the village or taluk he visited, his first concern was to see the precincts of a Hindu temple, make kind enquiries of the men in authority as to whether the management was alright, or a Christian Church there and then only he visited the Mosque of the village. Though a Moslem by birth, one can safely give expression to the indisputable fact that like Akbar, the greatest of Moghul Emperors, who welded both the communities into one of amity and friendship and brotherliness, our Dewan has been actuated with this noble feeling of brotherliness, between man and man. Another writer of note has stated in an appreciatory note about Sir Mirza Ismail—with which we are in entire agreement—and it runs thus: “the Dewan Sahab has an unbounded faith in what may be called the basic or fundamental goodness in human beings, quite irrespective, of course, of race, caste, creed, sex or colour, and he has no delusion as to how people and nations *normally* act”.

A NATIONALIST AND AN INTERNATIONALIST

He is as good an internationalist as he is an ardent nationalist, since it is an accepted fact that internationalism can never grow out of a weak or feeble nationalism. International outlook to be healthy should necessarily have its source from a healthy nationalism, as only then a specific

contribution can be made to a healthy internationalism, to solve the many "pressing problems of the individual units composing the whole". In support of this observation, it might be stated that at one of the Mysore Representative Assemblies, during Dasara Sessions, he referred to the growth of internationalism in the following terms: "India cannot afford to remain indifferent in this madly nationalistic world. We must join with the rest in improving our processes, extending our markets, and above all, in increasing the efficiency, mental, moral and physical, of our people, I live in the hope that the time will come when that struggle will cease to be a nationalistic struggle and when the nations of the world will once again co-operate to promote world trade and to act together for the common good. There seems little hope of world action on these lines at present, but that fact itself makes it the more necessary for us all to pull together in the State of Mysore and to do everything that is possible to make it a worthy unit of the Federation of the future." The above observation of Sir Mirza Ismail gives in a nut-shell the considered views of the statesman, who by improving the position of the State and bringing it to the perfection of an ideal, aims at a healthy internationalism, contributing to the sum-total of human well-being what Mysore can make as her own. It will therefore be clear to those who only talk of the ephemeral "internationalism" without being supported by specific contributions that an individual State or nation can possibly make, that it is absolutely necessary

to bring about necessary reforms to a particular unit as that the application of it or its influence can make the whole healthy.

ASSESSMENT OF TRUE WORTH

To assess the true worth of a statesman or an administrator, it is absolutely essential to keep a detached view of things and should view things from a distance. Mr. B. P. Wadia stated so long ago as 1922 that only when one gets to a lonely and secluded spot, placing himself at a higher altitude he would be in a position to see things in their proper perspective a thing which is not always possible for every one as they have their own likes and dislikes; pride and prejudice assess exactly the worth of a great man if he is always in the vicinity, often seeing only the perspectives and not the whole. Perspectives cannot always give the human judgment a complete and perfect idea of a thing or an act. So, to judge the worth of our Dewan, it is essential that we keep aloof from all party politics and prejudices pertaining to such parties.

A SUMMARY OF HIS BENEVOLENT ACTS

Judging from that standard, one can clearly see the work of alleviation of the miseries of agriculturists especially of the Malnad, the establishment of Land Mortgage Banks, the introduction of the Record of Rights, the proper application of the Village Panchayat Regulation, the appointment of non-official elected Presidents of District Boards and Urban Municipalities, the

many rural reconstruction schemes, medical relief in rural areas by grant of subsidies to qualified medical practitioners, a scheme for establishment of Local Fund Dispensaries on a reduced scale, rural electrification and protected water-supply schemes, the beautification of the capital towns of Bangalore and Mysore, the reduction he obtained in the subsidy by ten and a half lakhs, and the efforts he has been taking to have the entire subsidy cancelled and the Retrocession of Bangalore C. & M. Station to the State of Mysore are some of the many benevolent acts which the Dewan has been able to do during the period of eight years of his administration of the State. Special mention should be made of his herculean efforts that he takes to remove illiteracy in the State and for the introduction of vocational education to remove unemployment. The various industrial enterprises that have been inaugurated in the State during his period have really been an asset to the State, exacting admiration of men from far and near. The vigorous policy that is being pursued to stabilise the silk industry of the State, the establishment of sugar factory, the proposal of electric bulb manufacture in the State, and the liberal State-aid to many minor industries mark a glorious chapter in the administration of Sir Mirza Muhammad Ismail.

“ENGLAND AND INDIA HAND-IN-HAND”

At the conclusion of his address at Mysore during the Dasara of last year, Sir Mirza Ismail

in making an appeal to the members assembled said thus: "to co-operate to your utmost in the measures we are endeavouring to take, to make Mysore a much happier country, and to enable it to play its part in the Empire of which it is a member". This will clearly indicate his firm conviction in the bond of union that should subsist between India and the many states within it and the British Empire, which cannot better be expressed than in the inimitable words of late Dr. Besant, who said:

"India does not want to break the link: she wants to remain part of the Empire; an equal part, a self-governing community standing on a level with the self-governing dominions."

We can therefore join in her appeal when she said: "It is the eye purified from pride and prejudice, that can see clearly, and the heart purged from arrogance, that can beat with healthy strokes. England and India hand-in-hand. Yes, that is our hope, for the world's sake". It is towards this ideal that Sir Mirza Ismail has taken part in the discussions for an All-India Federation, and it is earnestly hoped that the Federation which is at present on the anvil, will be shaped perfectly well, satisfying the needs of the several communities and interests in British India, and the States thus bringing into existence that **UNITY** that is **LIFE**.

FEUDATORY & ZAMINDARI INDIA

The Feudatory & Zamindari India, for May 1941, writes:—

The retirement of Sir Mirza Mahomed Ismail from the office of the Dewan of Mysore is an event which has naturally attracted widespread notice in the Indian Press. Of Sir Mirza Ismail's services to the State of Mysore, it is impossible to speak in terms of too high a praise. The tribute paid to them by His Highness the Maharaja, conveyed to the people publicly in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, was richly deserved. "Over a period of 36 years," His Highness's encomium had it, Sir Mirza Ismail "has set an example of zeal and devotion to duty. His wide knowledge, his far-seeing statesmanship, his abundant energy, his keen interest in everything that is for the good of the State and his outstanding success in developing its resources and his ready sympathy with the people of all classes and creeds have endeared him to high and low alike and have made his name and his achievements famous far beyond the confines of the State." These are no conventional phrases; for, every one of the statements in it is capable of being substantiated in a measure which will proclaim them to be unassailable.

The Secret of Sir Mirza's Career

It is not our purpose now to survey the achievements of one to the remarkable success of whose glorious career this Journal, among others, has borne witness from time to time; that would

be a task which could not be fulfilled in the course of an editorial note. Nor is it necessary. Our task is less ambitious. It is a duty we owe, in common with those whole life mission it is to endeavour to assess the work and worth of our public men, to add our heart-felt appreciation of the services of one who will in years to come serve as a beacon light to Indian publicists. The secret of Sir Mirza Ismail's career is open to all who have eyes to see. He knew what he wanted to do; and in planning how to do it, he searched for light far and wide, patiently, assiduously, passionately with the zest of an artist, the foresight of a statesman and the keenness of the patriot whose soaring ambition in the cause of the advancement of his country knew no bounds. With this object, he made contacts with men and women too—whose number, variety, race, political predilections, idiosyncracies were amazing; this meant a severe strain on his time, rest and, not seldom, patience. We have heard some cutting jokes at Sir Mirza's expense on this score; we dare say he too knew what certain people thought of this side of his activity; but he knew his business better. If one examines his many-sided achievements in most fields of activity, one will find that for their sweep, depth, range and variety, he had drawn on the knowledge and experience of administrators, teachers, scientists, men of affairs, from all quarters of the globe. Sir Mirza Ismail was lavish in his hospitality; but there was nothing sordid or personal in it; it was the medium through which he drew rich sustenance for his policies and pro-

grammes; in other words, he built up an invaluable advisory council and bureau of information for his State at an absurdly low cost. He was admirably lavish in rendering service to others and he got service himself cheerfully rendered by persons to whom he had done little good turns.

Labouring Under Difficulties

It is impossible to evaluate the success of Sir Mirza Ismail without remembering at the same time that he was labouring under a certain disadvantage. He succeeded Dewans who were, many of them, all-India figures and whose reputation was such as might have overshadowed those of a lesser genius than Sir Mirza Ismail. He had but one advantage besides his own resourcefulness. He had the confidence of His Highness the Maharaja in a measure which few Dewans had—a confidence doubtless due to the fact that at the time Sir Mirza Ismail was appointed Dewan, he had served the State in subordinate capacities which enabled His Highness to assess his worth. The fact that his reputation as Dewan is reckoned as being second to that of none in the great galaxy of even the Dewans of Mysore is a circumstance of which Sir Mirza Ismail may justly be proud. This is more so because on every hand in Mysore there are solid pieces of evidence testifying to the value of his achievements. The revenue of the State has considerably expanded; there have been advances in economic prosperity, education, medical relief, irrigation, the development of forest areas, local self-government which are the envy of the sister

States in India; and even in the much debated question of political progress, he will be reckoned a blind partisan who says that Mysore has stood where she was a decade or two ago.

A Man of Vision.

Sir Mirza Ismail has retired from the State service at a period when the services of men of his calibre are so much in demand in a wider field. It is men of his eminence and vision that are required for tackling the tangled skein into which British Indian politics have resolved itself. The communal problem, which has been such a bugbear, will best be solved by men like Sir Mirza whom the Muslim community must trust as the Hindus do and we hope that he will be able to render some most valuable patriotic service in this direction and generally in solving the constitutional deadlock in India.

HINDUSTAN REVIEW

The following appreciation appears from the pen of "An Admirer" in the *Hindustan Review* (Patna), for July 1941:—

The close of May last witnessed the sudden retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail, "the maker of modern Mysore", from the Dewanship of the State, which position he had occupied for a period of over fourteen years, with great distinction and enviable success. His decision to retire had, therefore, evoked a very keen disappointment, not only

in Mysore, but in other States, and also in British India. "His wide knowledge, his far-reaching statesmanship, his abundant energy, his keen interest in everything that was for the good of the State, his outstanding success in developing its resources, and his ready sympathy with people of all classes and creeds, endeared him to high and low alike, and made his name and his achievements famous far beyond the confines of Mysore"—that is the very just tribute, justly paid to Sir Mirza by His Highness the Maharaja, in his farewell statement. There can be no two opinions that the sudden retirement of Sir Mirza is a grievous loss to the people of Mysore. He had held the office of Dewan for the longest period, after Sir Seshadri Iyer, who was Dewan of that State for eighteen years, while Sir Mirza held that office for about fifteen, of which he served the late Maharaja for fourteen years, enjoying his implicit confidence. It is a great tribute to Sir Mirza's high and unimpeachable character that he never abused the unshaken confidence reposed in him by his sovereign, and that he applied ungrudgingly his great talents, and remarkable industry to the service of the State, of which he is proud to call himself a native.

The Mysore Government *Gazette Extraordinary*, from which I have quoted the Maharaja's tribute to Sir Mirza, also said: "Amin-ul-Mulk Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, having requested His Highness the Maharaja to permit him to lay down his office, His Highness has been pleased to allow him to retire from public service with

effect from June 1." Public opinion throughout India is naturally inquisitive about the cause which led to the Dewan's sudden resignation, leaving his great work incomplete. Of course, the reasons have not been made public, and can but be inferred. The apparent reasons seem to be that Sir Mirza had recommended to His Highness that annual interest of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. be guaranteed by the State to the company which was to establish an automobile factory at Bangalore, with the inevitable result that the scheme had to fall through. Put shortly, Sir Mirza seems to have resigned as His Highness was not willing to accept his advice in this as also in some other important matters. No wonder, Sir Mirza's sense of dignity and self-respect do not permit him to continue in office.

Mysore had been singularly happy in a succession of Dewans, who had proved themselves to be eminent administrators. But the great and distinctive achievements of Sir Mirza (as Dewan since 1926), considered in the light of the tremendous progress made by Mysore under his stewardship, justly entitle him to the highest seat in the rich galaxy of the Dewans of that State. As the Dewan of Travancore, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, had put it felicitously, "What Sir Seshadri Iyer, was able to achieve against much opposition, Sir Mirza was able to do in an atmosphere of harmony and peace". Sir Mirza's immediate predecessor also, Sir Visvesvaraya, had paid but a just tribute to his successor in his declaration that "he is a great patriot, who has done much to promote the welfare of the people of Mysore". The Indian

public had taken the same view of Sir Mirza's notable achievements.

Mirza Ismail was born at Bangalore in 1883, and after a brilliant educational career—which culminated in taking his degree of the Madras University—was appointed in 1905, Superintendent of Police, while in his twenty-second year. From the beginning his great administrative ability marked him out for much higher positions, and but three years later he became Assistant Private Secretary to His Highness the late Maharaja. In 1914, at the age of thirty-one, he was promoted to the responsible office of Huzur Secretary to His Highness, which post he held for eight years. In 1922 he became Private Secretary to His Highness, and four years later, at the comparatively young age of forty-three, he was installed as the Dewan of Mysore, which position he continued to hold till the end of May, 1941. Such, in brief, is the record of the career of Sir Mirza—covering the long period of thirty-six years, and extending from the lowest to the highest rung of the official ladder. There is only one other similar administrative record in the history of modern India—that of the famous John Lawrence who joined as an assistant Magistrate and retired as the Viceroy.

Sir Mirza's services to the State of Mysore are well known as recorded in the Maharaja's farewell declaration—not only in the State, but also outside its confines, and a bare enumeration of them will easily fill a volume. But a brief reference may be made here to some of his prominent activities. It was during his Dewanship that,

as a result of his strenuous efforts, the Government of India remitted in perpetuity, in 1927, Rs. 10½ lakhs of the annual subsidy from the Mysore State, which had stood till then at Rs. 35 lakhs. A further provisional remission of Rs. 5.39 lakhs was secured in 1937-38, making a remission of nearly Rs. 16 lakhs. His contribution to the agricultural and industrial development of the State had been inestimably high. The "Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir" project began to bear fruit during Sir Mirza's Dewanship. The storage from the reservoir, besides enabling the generation of electric power up to 46,000 h.p., and the cheap supply of electricity, had also enabled about 1,20,000 acres of land, situated in drought area, to be brought under irrigation. The new canal works were started in 1927, and through the Irwin Canal nearly 13,000 acres had been reclaimed for cultivation; this had also enabled the development of the prosperous sugar industry of the State. The development of chemical, coffee, cotton, electrical, handloom, porcelain, sandalwood, silk, steel, sugar and woollen, besides other industries, during recent years, is too well known to need any detailed description. But a word may be said (by way of reminder to the reader) of the great expansion that had been brought about in the manufacture of steel at Bhadravati. Thus the progress of Mysore in almost every sphere of national life, during the term of Sir Mirza's strenuous premiership, if set forth in detail, will read almost like a romance.

Constitutional progress, expansion of local self-government and medical aid (including the

establishment of hospitals and village dispensaries), extension of the facilities for primary and secondary education, improvements in the University of Mysore and in other educational institutions, introduction of beneficial social services, like rural reconstruction scheme, systematic town-planning with an eye to architectural effect as well as the requirements of public hygiene, construction of public buildings at Bangalore, all this in addition to the agricultural and industrial development noted above is by no means a complete catalogue of the numerous beneficent and beneficial activities which engaged the attention and energy of Sir Mirza as Dewan of Mysore. During the pretty long period of fifteen years, he had embellished the State with splendid buildings, parks, avenues, gardens and public thoroughfares, and the result of his labours are writ so large on the State that even he who runs may read them. They are distinctly visible all over, but perhaps none more markedly so as that of the supply of cheap electricity, which has added materially to human comfort and convenience, improved substantially the amenities of life not only in cities and towns but even in villages, and at the same time contributed to the enormous development and expansion of the industries of the Mysore State.

Sir Mirza's crowning achievement, however, was the recent adoption of far-reaching constitutional reforms. Endowed with rich and rare statesmanship, he had been systematically developing the civic sense and political consciousness of the people of the State. and last year (1941)

witnessed the adoption of political reforms, as the result of which considerably enlarged powers and privileges were conferred on the State Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council. At the same time, their numerical strength had been substantially increased, the electorate considerably widened, and, what is even more important, two non-officials, selected from among the elected representatives, included in the State Executive, with eligibility to hold any portfolio in the administration. It is a matter for great regret that Sir Mirza relinquished his Dewanship, just before inaugurating the new constitutional reforms, and steering them along constructive channels which he had carefully planned.

While his services to Mysore have thus been inestimable, Sir Mirza as a statesman of all-India fame, had been prominent at the three Round Table Conferences, and the Joint Select Committee of Parliament, which he had attended, in London, on behalf of some Indian States. While duly safeguarding the interests of the States, he sought to fit them advantageously against the proper background of an all-India federal constitution. The British Government also recognised his profound knowledge of Indian conditions by inviting him, in 1937, to be the leader of the Indian delegation to the Inter-Government Conference of Far-Eastern Countries on Rural Hygiene, held at Bandoeng, in Java, where he made notable contribution to the proceedings of that Conference.

But greater than the administrator and the

statesman is the man in Sir Mirza Ismail. Not only a Muslim by birth but also by conviction a devout votary of his faith, he is one of the very few Muslims in the country, who have kept up sustained cordial relations with his fellow-countrymen of other faiths, without the least trace of any communal bias either in his administrative policy or personal views. While firmly adhering to the tenets of the religion in which he was born, Sir Mirza had all these years maintained intimate social relations with the members of other religious communities, both inside and outside the State of Mysore. He is the very pink of courtesy, a most charming host who keeps an open table, and a genuine friend (of those who care to cultivate him), without betraying the remotest indication of any consciousness of his high position in the public life of the country. His sweet reasonableness, and well-merited reputation for integrity and reliability, had deservedly won for him the complete confidence and support of His Highness the late Maharaja, and also of the people of the State. Altogether, there is no Indian for whom, both in private and public life, the people of this great country have uniformly cherished a deeper feeling of genuine esteem and regard than for Sir Mirza.

In politics, Sir Mirza is a staunch nationalist, and has been so all his life. This is patent to all who know him, or have watched his career as an administrator. He had delivered Convocation Addresses at several universities, and in each of them he had emphasised the ideal of a united Indian nationality, and of an India indivisible and an

integral whole. This had been the burden of all his declarations, statements, speeches and writings, and also the guiding principle of his life and work. His last act as Dewan had been the laying of the foundation stone of a mosque, at Bangalore, on which occasion (after emphasising the identity of all Muslims, since he, a Shia, was there at a Sunni function) he concluded his remarks as follows: "I am convinced that the differences that are stressed to-day for the making of drastic cleavage between the Muslim population of India, and the much older and larger Hindu population, are negligible besides the bonds that unite them as children of one Universal Creator, and citizens by ancient ancestry of a common country." It was in such dignified terms that the nationalist Dewan of Mysore rebuked the separatist communalist of the Muslim League. Such instances of Sir Mirza's broadmindedness and catholicity, and of his genuine belief in Indian nationalism, can easily be multiplied, from his public utterances and writings. But it is unnecessary to do so, as the passage quoted above—his latest expression of opinion from a public platform—conclusively establishes his position as a leader of nationalist thought in the country. He has also the knack of putting his thoughts in felicitous language. What a happily worded expression that the Hindus and Muslims are "citizens by ancient ancestry of a common country".

For these reasons while we consider the retirements from office of Sir Mirza, within a year of the accession to power of the new Maharaja, a very serious loss to the State of Mysore, we

cannot persuade ourselves to believe that he will be allowed to remain long in retirement. On the contrary, we hope that he will soon be in harness again, to make available his great administrative gifts and high statesmanship to the advancement of the cause of India. To one, who like the present writer, has had the privilege of knowing Sir Mirza Ismail, and possessing first-hand knowledge of his physical and mental capacity, energy, and enthusiasm, it is absolutely inconcievable that he should lead a retired life, from now. If my anticipations turn out to be correct, Mysore's loss would be to India's great advantage. I earnestly hope, therefore, that Sir Mirza may enter, in due course, the public life of the country, to which he will make a rich contribution, and serve the Motherland with the same capability and disinterested zeal, with which until now he had served the State of Mysore. In any case, all well-wishers of India will sincerely wish him a long life of health and happiness, and also a wider career of useful public activities in the service of India, of which he is one of the most distinguished sons. Lastly, a survey of Sir Mirza's public career should be studied by the youth of the country, since it offers a great and noble example of high administrative ability, and unparalleled devotion to duty, which well deserves to be emulated.

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ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA

"A Mysorean" writes in *The Illustrated Weekly of India*, under date June 15, 1941:—

The unexpected retirement of Sir Mirza Ismail from the Dewanship of Mysore ends a brilliant career of 15 years as chief minister of one of India's most progressive States.

Much of Mysore's progress has been due to a succession of eminent Dewans—from Sir K. Seshadri Iyer to Sir Mirza. Sir K. Seshadri Iyer carried out the great hydro-electric project of Sivasamudram. To the forethought of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Mysore owes the Kannambadi Dam (Krishnaraja Sagara), the Bhadravati Iron Works and Mysore University. And it was Sir Mirza Ismail who made Mysore better known internationally and was also responsible for quickening the industrialisation of the State.

Trusted Minister

The name of Sir Mirza will always be associated with that of the late Maharaja. He was not only the latter's minister, but had also been his class-mate and close friend.

By sheer ability, personal charm, wisdom and capacity for organisation, he early won the esteem of his Ruler. He rose from one position to another, acted as Huzur Secretary and Private Secretary to the late Maharaja, and finally became Dewan in the year 1926. He was then 43 years old. The wisdom of the Ruler's choice was proved by subsequent events.

It will not be out of place to mention here that Mysore has been most fortunate in having had a Ruler like the late Maharaja. He was the embodiment of all that was best and endeared himself to all classes and communities. He ruled not over his subjects so much as he ruled over their hearts.

His was a glorious vision of the future of Mysore, and it was his conviction that the services of his friend Sir Mirza could best be harnessed to give effect to the ideas surging in his mind. To Sir Mirza's credit, let it be said that he gave concrete shape to most of the Maharaja's ideas.

Communal Amity

Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Parsi live peacefully in Mysore, and there is an absence of communal strife in the State. Wherever he went, Sir Mirza preached the gospel of love and universal brotherhood and the historian will record how the Dewan helped his ruler and served the State in a manner which drew the admiration of men like Mr. Gandhi and the late Lord Lothian.

During Sir Mirza's term, the cities of Mysore and Bangalore have improved considerably. The buildings of the Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Technological Institute, the Town Hall, the Municipal Offices, the Government Insurance Offices and the Municipal Market add much to their architectural beauty. The fine Kempegowda Road, Sri Narasimharaja Road and the Swimming Pool have come into existence during the last two decades. The spotlessly clean

thoroughfares and foot-paths, street gardens and avenues all speak of the careful planning during Sir Mirza's administration.

An intelligent blending of all that is best in East and West is evident in Mysore. Evidence of such blending in the architectural field is to be found in the beautiful palaces of Lalitha Mahal, Chamundi, and the small villas of Kemmangundi, Fern Hill and Bangalore. The charming gardens of Brindavan (Krishnaraja Sagara) with their flood-lit fountains and the well laid-out Cubbon Park and other parks are also attractive.

Medical Aid to All

Above all, Mysore owes a debt of gratitude to Sir Mirza for building throughout the State fine, up-to-date hospitals—one in each district headquarters. The magnificent hospitals of Vani Vilas and the new Mental Hospital in its beautiful setting are most noteworthy among them.

Sir Mirza's concern for the health of the rural population is evident from the many village dispensaries spread all over the State. His sincerity of purpose induced many philanthropists to give donations for the hospitals and, but for this, he could not have achieved his goal of building hospitals and dispensaries within easy reach of the villager.

Nature has bestowed on Mysore many blessings and the bracing climate of the State has made it a playground for rich and poor. What Switzerland is to Europe, Mysore in some measure is to the South.

Many Ventures

The Sugar Factory, the Porcelain Factory, the Cotton and Woollen Mills, the Coffee Curing Works, the Spun Silk Mills, installation of steel plants, the Mysore Chemical Factory, the Gersoppa Falls project and the supply of electric power to a wide area including remote villages, are some important phases of the industrialization of Mysore with which Sir Mirza has been actively connected. Motor-bus services ensure quick and cheap transport by road in all parts of the State.

It was during Sir Mirza Ismail's term of office that the sum paid by Mysore to the Government of India was reduced by ten lakhs of rupees. At the Round Table Conference, it was his proud privilege to represent the States of Travancore, Cochin and Pudukottah, in addition to Mysore.

During the last two decades, education, revenue and agriculture have considerably improved in Mysore, and the rural reconstruction scheme has been brought into force for the good of the ryots.

During his administration Sir Mirza Ismail advised the late Maharaja to enlarge the franchise of the people. Indeed, it is a tragedy that, on the eve of the inauguration of vital constitutional reforms in the State, the Ruler who was so keen about them should pass away, and the Dewan who brought them about should retire,

INDIAN EXPRESS

"Saka" writing in the *Indian Express*, dated May 24, 1941, observes:—

The worth of a State, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it.—J. S. MILL.

Sir Mirza Ismail possesses, to an extraordinary degree, the gift of making himself agreeable. When he sets out to please, he is almost irresistible. Charm is an indefinable attribute discernible only through the effect produced. A dimple, a trick of speech, a mere lisp, a peculiarity of glance, or a way of carrying oneself, may produce charm. It is an impression quite separable from beauty. As in the case of Lady Randolph Churchill, mother of the present Prime Minister,—of whom it used to be said that if she had a mind like her face, she could conquer the whole world,—some very beautiful persons may be devoid of charm. Likewise charm may shine through physical ungainliness. The late Sir P. Rajagopalachari was no Apollo, but he was one of the most charming of men. Sir Mirza Ismail is both personable and charming.

The whole outfit of the man is pleasing. Stature, features, complexion, all converge towards the fashioning of a graceful, well-proportioned figure. To it is added the expert grooming of a connoisseur with a fastidious taste in dress. The resulting ensemble is a work of art. His manner is a masterpiece of polished courtesy. His deportment is a cultivated product of delicate consideration. He puts people at once at their ease and they

go away happily impressed with a comfortable sense of his keen personal interest in their well-being. The impression he produces is, like the fragrance of a flower, an attribute of nature unaffected by preferences, and those who mistake it for a sign of discriminating favour, might come to grief. A thing of beauty is a joy to all; if people interpret it as a special symbol of beneficence to themselves, will it be surprising if eventual disillusionment awaits them?

Sir Mirza Ismail has a passion for the artistic. There is an element of Moghul opulence in his patronage of arts conducive to the enhancement of external magnificence. Artisans have flourished under his tender care, and designs of subtle and delicate workmanship have added greatly to the renown of Mysore products in external markets. The State has set a lead that is beginning to be felt in the flattering form of imitative artistic renovation in far-flung places beyond its boundaries in crafts like textiles, silks, tapestry, carpet-making and household furniture. Within the State itself, variegated colour combinations, soothing to the senses, have been worked with astonishing skill and originality into the mosaic of Government's administrative enterprises. Electricity and water power have been romanticised in Mysore, and such mingling of fountains with tinted bulbs as is found in parks and public places in the State giving delightful rainbow effects, is found nowhere else in the country. The engineering talent of Sir M. Visvesvarava created the stupendous Brindavan dam. But Sir Mirza's genius has converted what

was intended to be a utilitarian undertaking into a delectable beauty spot.

He has filled the State with buildings of grand architectural excellence and gardens of remarkable attractiveness. Even into the repair and preservation of ancient ruins and monuments, he has thrown a consummate faculty for style. He was inspired by a sense of the glory of form and found pride in town-planning and perfecting the external facade of the countryside. He gave to the beautification of the State a devotion bordering on religious feeling, and he made Mysore a paradise for tourists, famous as an abode of elegance and choice amenities.

INDIAN RAILWAY MAGAZINE

Indian Railway Magazine, in its issue for June 1941, observes:—

The resignation of Sir Mirza Ismail—Mysore's Asset—will be viewed with the greatest regret by all who have the welfare of India at heart. We deliberately say, India, because, Sir Mirza as Dewan set a standard that lifted up India as a whole in the eyes of the world. Mysore suffered but recently a serious loss in the death of the late Maharaja. That was God-made and could not be avoided. This loss of the services of the greatest Statesman of India of recent times, being man made, could be avoided. As Sir Visvesvaraya

said, Mysore has missed the bus. The position is not beyond repair and we still hope better counsels will prevail and that the inspiring guidance of Sir Mirza will be available to Mysore for some more years and will not be withdrawn in this, the darkest hour of trial and tribulation in the world's history.

Sir Mirza Ismail—Mysore's Asset

Sir Mirza Ismail is not a mere personality, he is an institution in Mysore—nay, in India. To find another one like him—of high public character, shedding the warmth of love all around him, without any axe to grind but revelling solely in doing his duty, working from morning till late at night without feeling it, ennobling what he lays his hands to,—we shall have to take ourselves to Wardha, where the politician-saint can alone afford a comparison to this statesman-saint. Saint indeed he is, whose sole “Tapasya” is how to make Mysore more prosperous. In private life he is simplicity itself, almost austere. No smoke, no drink, no personal luxury of any kind, Sir Mirza inspires and elevates not only the Officers of the State but is a living example to the youth of India. With a Gandhian smile always radiating cheer and love, he smiles his way through the hardest work of Statecraft. He trusts every one around him and none has been known to betray him. His thoughts are always direct and clearcut and he has an incisive way of expressing them, yet one more feature in which he resembles the Saint of Wardha. Though occupying the highest position in the State, no man is too low for him to stop

and speak to; in fact, the "Dewan's interview days" (Friday and Saturday mornings in the Bangalore Public Offices) constitute scenes unparalleled in any Administration. Apart from the interview days, every day as he goes round on horseback or comes into or goes out of office, many a poor man might be seen, petition in hand, waiting for an interview with the highest officer of the State. The interview is had and the poor man's complaint is attended to.

When there was labour trouble in the railway workshop, Sir Mirza forebode outside interference, straight walked into their midst, went into their homes and gave to the workers, not only what they asked for but also a bit of vacant land as an adjunct to each tenement, so that a kitchen garden might be raised. This is the secret of Sir Mirza's success—an innate love for the toiling underdog and pity for him rather than anger whenever he is led astray by an agitator who has his own axe to grind. Herein lies the real reason why in spite of repeated attempts the labour movement has not thriven in Mysore. The State, with a fatherly affection, looks after its children, the workers, and in this happy family, outsiders have no business to but it. Sir Mirza is in one sense and a very real sense too, a socialist himself. Whenever there are real grievances in labour, he assumes the role of their leader and takes it up with those concerned why such grievances were allowed to develop. Therefore grievances do not develop and naturally the labour movement does not thrive there as it does in British India.

LIFE

The Editor of *Life*, Bangalore, writing on May 15, 1941, observes:—

The disappointing thing about the resignation of Sir M. Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, is the amazing suddenness of it.

It is true that in these times of great crisis, when the fate of civilisation is being decided on a score of battle fields, quick and unprecedented moves of men in key positions are the order of the day.

Sir Mirza's Qualities of Statescraft

It would have surprised no one, for example, if the news had suddenly flashed round the world that His Majesty the King had approved the appointment of Sir Mirza M. Ismail as Governor of some Province in British India, or as head of Industries and Commerce in a newly formed Cabinet at New Delhi or as British Ambassador to some foreign State. That would have surprised no one who knows the qualities of Statescraft possessed by Sir Mirza. It would also have explained in a measure the suddenness of the resignation.

Considering These Things

But considering the extraordinary fruitfulness of the Dewan's long term of office, and considering that it is not so long since it was announced that his term had been extended for another five years, a period which would have enabled him, under His Highness, to have stabilised the new reforms

which shortly come into force, and with the bringing in of which he had so much to do, considering these kind of things it takes ones breath away to be suddenly told about the middle of the month, and without any explanation, he has resigned and will cease to act as Dewan from the end of the same month.

Lady Mirza's Work

In these circumstances it is not surprising to learn that "an influential deputation consisting of several prominent citizens and public men of Mysore" is to wait on His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore with a view to retaining the services of Sir Mirza M. Ismail as Dewan of Mysore. And what applies to the Dewan applies with equal force, especially from the standpoint of the welfare of the women and children of the State, to Lady Mirza, whose splendid example, untiring zeal and quiet activity have borne fruit and are embodied in a network of institutions for the health, uplift and education of the women and children of Mysore.

Enduring Monuments

But whatever may come of the said deputation's efforts, nothing can dim or tarnish the solid record of work that has been accomplished by the genius and skill of these two devoted people and which is enshrined for all time in the various monuments of industrial, agricultural, educational, social and æsthetic landmarks of the State.

A Beautifying Urge

There may have been differences of opinion as to the sums of money which the Dewan should or should not have spent for beautifying purposes in the State, but we think posterity will increasingly appreciate everything that has been done in this direction, especially when it is remembered that these efforts were always duplicated by similar efforts to increase employment and income by an increase of industrial and other enterprises.

South Parade and a Vision

We remember once in a casual chat we once had with the Dewan, anent the question of retrocession, the clear vision he had in his mind with regard to transforming South Parade into one of the most beautiful avenues in the East, reminiscent of Princess Street, Edinburgh. He held the vision clear and distinct, and it was obvious that he had already devoted much thought to it and meant to realise his dream.

His resignation cuts this dream short. And doubtless it is so in a score of other directions. But nothing visualised strongly is ever lost. It has gone into the mental atmosphere and is sure to appear later, though perhaps in a greatly modified form.

Political Ideologies

That is true also with respect to certain political ideologies. These naturally have to go into the melting pot of the changing and evolving consciousness of mankind, eventually to emerge

more and more in harmony with those principles of democracy for which Britain and her Allies are fighting so splendidly in the most fateful war of all time.

What Matters Supremely

And that, after all, is what matters supremely in these critical days, not the moves on the chess-board of fate—painful and sudden and humanly disappointing as these may be, and often are at the time—but the final triumph of those principles of democracy, on which a new world order, and with it a new Mysore and a new India is to be built.

The Finger of Destiny

Always in these perplexing, disturbing and often very sudden “moves” it is steadying and reassuring to remember that it is the moving finger of destiny that writes, and not the human pen or pencil held by that finger, and that having writ it moves on and stays not to cancel a line of what it has written.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

“M. G. W.” writes under date June 13, 1941, in the *Manchester Guardian* :—

Sir Mirza Ismail, who has resigned from the Premiership of Mysore, is an outstanding Indian statesman. So much admired was the administration of Mysore that young rulers or future rulers of other States have of late always been found in

Mysore learning the art of government. It was interesting to watch (a correspondent tells me) Sir Mirza presiding over the Legislative Assembly, in which nearly all the speakers use the English language, although there are only five European members. His secretaries placed a constant stream of letters and documents before him which he perused, modified if need be, and initialled while he kept the various orators under observation, putting in now and then a word of advice or admonition.

This correspondent tells of a ride in his car from Bangalore, the administrative capital, to Mysore, the ceremonial capital. The road is excellent, but those eighty miles occupied an entire morning as engineers and public works officials succeeded one another in the car, and Sir Mirza was continually suggesting improvements. He has published several volumes of speeches: his versatility is demonstrated by his quotations, which range from Greek poets to Shakespeare and Marie Lloyd, for in one of his philosophic discourses he said, in the words of that lady, "A little of wot yer fancies does yer good."

PRINCELY INDIA

Mr. P. G. Pillai in an article in the *Princely India*, dated Sunday, May 25, 1941, says:—

At a time when Sir Mirza Ismail's services as Dewan of Mysore are coming to a close at the end of this month, it will not be, I believe, out of

place here to reveal certain salient features of his character as a man. It is not an easy job for the Moslem Dewan of one of the largest Hindu States in India to enjoy universal popularity, love and affection. There must be something uncommon with the man who presided over the destinies of several millions for fifteen years and to be the idol of their admiration. Volumes have been written on the great achievements of Sir Mirza as a sympathetic administrator, as an able statesman, industrialist and all that; and volumes can still be written on the same. But few have drawn a true picture of this great statesman nor have they given the secret of his success in all that he has undertaken.

Great learning and wisdom are of no avail without the grace of God. This grace goes only to those who understand their Creator and follow Him. Sir Mirza Ismail is one who possesses this grace in abundance. All his words and deeds bear that mark.

It was in January 1925. Sir A. R. Banerji was the Dewan. I was a State guest in Bangalore. Sir Albion expressed great sympathy and promised to subscribe to a dozen copies of *Princely India* for the State. The Huzur Secretary, Mr. Thambu Chetty, appeared to be a devoted Catholic and he was all kindness and courtesy to all visitors. The Private Secretary, Mr. Mirza Ismail, had an irresistible charm and transparent sincerity in his manners and conversation. He was so simple and unassuming that I was closely drawn to him. He asked me whether I had visited Mysore and

Seringapatam, and if not he would make all necessary arrangements for my visit to these places. And he did everything. During my interview with Col. Barton, the British Resident, he enquired whether I had seen the Private Secretary remarking, "Mr. Mirza Ismail is the best type of a gentleman". I wondered why Col. Barton singled out Mr. Mirza Ismail alone among the so many officials of the State.

It was my great misfortune that I had to play into the hands of the late Venkatakrishtnayya, who was known as the Grand Old Man of Mysore, when he started with a band of youngsters a press campaign against Sir Mirza in 1930. *Princely India* continued this campaign for four years. Sir Mirza never banned the entry of this Journal into Mysore, nor had he taken any action against Venkatakrishtnayya and company. On the other hand, I learnt from a reliable source that the G.O.M. of Mysore, who was always a hard-up man, was often supported by Sir Mirza with money. For all the evils done to the Dewan, the evil-doers received only kindness and support in return. When I learnt this fact from my friends in Mysore I thought the Dewan must be super-human. When I happened to meet Sir Mirza after several years I reminded him of my uncharitable criticisms of his administration and begged of his forgiveness. He with a gentle smile said that he didn't remember what others did against him. This is Sir Mirza Ismail. If anybody practises Christianity in his daily life it is the Moslem Dewan of Mysore and that's my honest opinion about him.

It is very difficult to meet one so free from malice, hatred, anger, etc., as Sir Mirza Ismail is. "Love your enemies"—so said Jesus Christ, and the Moslem Dewan of Mysore actually practises it. In the calm, graceful face of Sir Mirza Ismail one could ever notice the real peace which his inner self enjoys. This can be possible only when one is having regular communion with his Creator. I have never heard anyone say that Sir Mirza had ever lost his temper.

Those who have visited Mysore and Bangalore recently would have discovered that Sir Mirza is not only a great statesman but an artist of a very high order. You have to see only Brindavan at Mysore and a few gardens and roads both there and at Bangalore to realise it. A born artist as he is, his art is not on the canvass. The man who conceived the famous Brindavan, which is one of the wonders of the world, must have in him the spirit of a Jehangir or a Shajahan. In fine, the modern Mysore is the creation of this wonderful artist, who possesses originality and creative genius to an amazing degree. It is indeed an irreparable loss to the State of Mysore and its people that Sir Mirza Ismail is not there to continue his great works as the head of administration. It is perhaps God's will that the services of such a noble soul should benefit a larger circle than Mysore. I wish Sir Mirza Ismail all happiness and peace in his temporary retirement, so that he may be able to devote himself to the service of India as a whole.

STATESMAN

"Indian Observer" writing in the *Statesman*, on May 25, 1941, remarks:—

Mysore has a Maharaja who is new to his office, not having been a full year in it. It has a new Dewan, a State official who has served Mysore all his life. In a fortnight it will have a new constitution whose chief feature is the selection of Ministers from among elected members of the legislature. These changes taken together mean a complete transformation of Mysore's landscape.

The State has hardly yet recovered from the shock of Sir Mirza Ismail's sudden decision to retire. In the ordinary course he would have stayed on for another year and a half; he would have seen the Reforms through and guided the footsteps of the young Maharaja along the steep path that all progressive Rulers pursue. That has not been given to him. He has preferred to withdraw rather than abandon the methods and policies which he practised as Dewan for fifteen years and which have made Mysore famous. The best of Dewans must retire, says a South Indian newspaper. So they must; but such sudden resignations leave a bitter taste in the mouth. They remain an unpleasant background to whatever may happen in a new order of things. The affairs of minor States are quickly forgotten, but a major State like Mysore is in the public eye from year's end to year's end. Mysore fills a large space in all-India polity and it will have to do much to smooth over a difficult transition.

TELEGRAPH

"Eavesdropper" in a contribution to the *Telegraph*, dated May 19, 1941, observes:—

Sir Mirza Ismail's retirement from the Dewanship of Mysore exercises the minds of many in many ways.

It has all the importance which any kind of major change in a great State can be expected to have.

It combines in a unique and subtle manner the significance of a change of Premiership in a system of representative Government with that of a retirement of a Richileu or a Bismark.

For, in the State of Mysore, Sir Mirza has been both, each in a measure.

There can be no question of his popularity with the people, of his unique service to the State, of the far-reaching programmes of political reform and economic development such as one could expect only from the head of a popular government which at once enjoys and is controlled by a large majority of elected representatives of the people.

At the same time, it would be flying in the face of facts to deny the element of personal favouritism in his fifteen years' headship of the administration of the Mysore State. He was a classfellow, playmate and constant companion of His late Highness of Mysore. Between the two were bonds of friendship which defied all the strain of intrigue and scandal natural to a princely court. Even more gifted administrators than Sir Mirza could not have managed to remain so

long in office, unless they could claim such personal intimacy with the Ruling Prince.

It is this combination of a popular Premier and personal favourite of the Ruler that seems to me the most striking characteristic of Sir Mirza's Dewanship of Mysore. It is also the secret of his success.

Neither of the two by itself would have sufficed. There are Dewans in India who have the fullest confidence of their princes. There sometimes spring up some who have some ideas of democratic administration and popular uplift. But the former soon render themselves unpopular, the latter powerless.

It looks to me that Sir Mirza is almost alone among Indian Dewans in his realisation that the two are complementary. He did not lean on either exclusively. He did not hesitate to rely on his Raja's confidence in him when he had to deal strongly with opposition. But I wager he must have often overborne palace opposition in the spirit of Gladstone who told the Queen of England that he was "the people of England".

In this spirit, Sir Mirza Ismail has done great things. He has carried on the far-reaching programme of industrial development which the great Dewans of the past like Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar and Sir M. Visvesvaraya had carried on successfully. He kept on the right side of the Congress, though local Congressmen were often a thorn on his side. He never antagonised the Government of India. He went ahead with his schemes. He built the cities of Mysore, as so

many garden houses. Plato said, though in a somewhat different sense, "Infinite Time is the Builder of great cities". A Dewanship of fifteen years has done it.

But Sir Mirza's retirement causes more than the usual regret. For it appears to be the result of his failure to add the automobile industry to the string of industries which, alone in India, Mysore could claim as her own.

Sir Mirza had invited the sponsors of the automobile project to establish the industry in Mysore territory. Preliminaries had been settled; work was well advanced; and actual operations, it was thought, was only a question of Time.

But soon the bombshell burst. The Government of India pulled away the keystone of his arch. And the whole edifice came tumbling down.

Sir Mirza resigned

What Sir Mirza will do next is a matter which is best left to him.

But meantime, one must thank Mr. Jinnah for the kind of comic relief he has afforded. Didn't we all forget that Sir Mirza Ismail is a Muslim who was the Dewan of a Hindu State for as many as fifteen years?

What is Sir Mirza's place in the armoury of Pakistan? Thus Mr. Jinnah:

"That a representative of a minority community of 500,000 people should have so successfully conducted the administration of a big State like Mysore for a period of 15 years speaks of his ability, tact, thoroughness and foresight.

It should be an object lesson to every Moslem in the State. These are some of the qualities that pave the way for the success of individuals and communities."

It is typical Jinnah logic. Sir Mirza was no more representative of the minority than of the majority. And his ability, tact, thoroughness and foresight were not devoted to bolstering up impossible claims for minorities.

It is true, however, that Sir Mirza's Dewan-ship is an object lesson to every Muslim not only in the State, but in all India.

Mr. Jinnah may not like it; but it is true.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

The writer of "Sheaves from a Scrap Book" in the *Twentieth Century*, for June 1941, says:—

More than a passing reference is due to Sir Mirza Ismail, whose adieu to his life-work in Mysore is one of the saddest facts in its history. If Sir Mirza owes much to Mysore and the late Maharaja, modern Mysore which enjoys the reputation of a model State, owes more to him. He is the most zealous Mysorean one can come across. To him there is no State like Mysore, and no place like Bangalore. It is a most pleasant experience in one's life to be in his distinguished company when he points to "a thing of beauty" in that happy region and feels the thrill of "a joy for ever". His work for Mysore has become one of the legends in India and spread his reputation far

and wide as an administrator of rare gifts. There is a saying that a fallen Minister has no friends, but in or out of office, Sir Mirza's genius for friendship counts. For urbanity and polish, his name has become a synonym. His numerous friends in all parts of India, and in all the communities, are hardly reconciled to his retirement. At 58, he is out of harness, but in excellent trim, and it will be to India's advantage if he will be again in a position where he can translate his ideas into action and dreams into deeds. Meanwhile, he is entitled to the well-earned repose of an over-worked man. He has in him an abundant capacity to enjoy life, and if tastes are 'fibrous things that cling to the masonry of the heart', he will fill the atmosphere with the radiance of his personality wherever he is, and take his place among 'the lovers and creators of beauty in a world where so many clutch for ugliness, with sensual, grasping hands'.

UNITED INDIA & INDIAN STATES

A writer in the *United India & Indian States*, Delhi, writes under date May 24, 1941:—

The close of the current month will witness the retirement of Amin-ul-Mulk Sir M. Ismail, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., from the Dewanship of the Mysore State, which position he has been occupying with great distinction and ability since 1926. His decision to retire, which seems to have been taken suddenly, has rightly evoked keen disappointment not only in the State subjects but in the thousands

of friends and admirers of Sir Mirza in India and abroad. Mysore has been singularly happy in its choice of Dewans in respect of whom it can look back on an unbroken series of very eminent administrators starting with Sir K. Seshadri Aiyer and including such well-known persons as V. P. Madhava Rao and Sir M. Visvesvaraya. The great achievements of Sir Mirza during the last fifteen odd years as Dewan, when measured by the progress of the Mysore State under his stewardship, entitled him to a seat of honour in the rich galaxy of his predecessors. As Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar has put it in his usual felicitous way, "what Sir K. Seshadri Aiyer (who was 'indubitably the greatest of them') was able to achieve against much opposition, Sir Mirza was able to do in an atmosphere of harmony and peace."

Sir Mirza was born in Mysore in 1883 and, after a brilliant educational career, was appointed Superintendent of Police in the State in his 22nd year. From the beginning his administrative ability marked him out for greater things and three years later he became Assistant Private Secretary to H. H. the Maharaja, and at the age of 31, in 1914, he became the Huzur Secretary to His Highness, which post he held for eight years. In 1922 he became the Private Secretary to His Highness and in 1926 at the young age of 43 he had become the Dewan of Mysore, one of the premier States in India, which position he has continued to hold since then.

Sir Mirza's services to the Mysore State are well known not only in the State but also outside;

a bare enumeration of them will easily fill volumes but a small bunch may be presented here. It was during his Dewanship that in 1927, the Government of India remitted in perpetuity Rs. 10½ lakhs of the annual subsidy which till then had stood at Rs. 35 lakhs. A further provisional remission of Rs. 5.39 lakhs was secured from 1937-38 by his able advocacy before the Indian States Enquiry Committee. His contribution to the agricultural and industrial development of the State is inestimable. The "Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir" project began to bear fruit during his Dewanship. The storage from the reservoir, besides enabling the generation of electric power up to 46,000 H.P. will also bring under irrigation about 120,000 acres of land situated in continuous drought area. The new canal works were started in 1927 and through the Irwin Canal nearly 13,000 acres have been rendered fit for cultivation; this has enabled the development of the new prosperous sugar industry of the State. The development of the silk, cotton, handloom and sandal wood industries during recent years is too well known. His sweet persuasiveness and reputation for thoroughness and reliability won for him the confidence and support of His Highness and the people of the State in instituting measure in all his development schemes, the complete success of which later justified such support and confidence.

His crowning achievement was the recent adoption of 'far-reaching Constitutional Reforms. With his usual generosity, which never stints, and

his statesmanship, he has been increasingly developing the civic and political sense of the State subjects, and last year witnessed the adoption of political reforms through which enlarged powers and privileges were granted to the State Representative Assembly and Legislative Council. At the same time, the strength of the Assembly and the Council was enlarged, the electorate widened, and, what is most important, not less than two non-officials, selected from among the elected representatives, are to be included in His Highness' Executive Council, with eligibility to hold any portfolio or the Administration. It is sad to reflect that he is relinquishing his Dewanship at this juncture without being at the head of the administration to inaugurate these reforms and steer it along the constructive channels which he had planned.

While his services to the Mysore State has been inestimable, Sir Mirza is a statesman of all-India stature. In the proceedings of the three Round Table Conferences and the Joint Select Committee, which he attended, though on behalf of Indian States, his evidence, by its breadth of outlook and vision, was more of all-India interest than of mere parochial one. While fully safeguarding the interests of the Princely Order, he sought to fit them advantageously against the proper background of an all-India Constitution, so as to make the entire scheme a harmonious, unified and enduring whole. His great administrative ability and contribution to the shaping of the Constitutional Reforms were recognised by the British Government by conferring the title of K.C.I.E. in

1936. The British Government further recognised his profound knowledge of Indian conditions by inviting him to be the leader of the Indian Delegation to the Inter-Governmental Conference of Far-Eastern Countries on Rural Hygiene held at Bandoeng in Java in 1937. In the face of these evidences of great administrative skill and ability, statesmanship and gift for leadership as also of his comparative young age, one can be confident that Sir Mirza will not be allowed to remain in retirement for long. Let us hope that he will soon be in harness to make available his great gifts and sacrifices to the furtherance of the cause of India and of Mysore which is so dear to his heart.

WHIP

The Whip, Calcutta, in a recent article on "Mysore and Karnatak Unification", remarked as follows:—

The ideal of a United Karnatak is worthy of the most passionate allegiance of every Kannadiga. It was when Sir M. Visvesvaraya was Dewan of Mysore that the new found spirit of cohesion and self-respect of Mysorean found expression in the dictum: "Mysore for Mysoreans and Mysoreans for Mysore". During the Dewanship of Sir Mirza Ismail this spirit has blossomed forth into a pervasive sense of solidarity among all Kannadigas. Sir Mirza was the first Dewan of Mysore who was invited to visit the South Kanara District. He was the first Dewan to be invited to tour Northern

Karnatak. The invitation in both cases came from the people. In language of unaffected sincerity Sir Mirza said at Dharwar:

“I have genuine love for Kannada even though it is not my mother tongue. I am proud to call myself a Kannadiga and a servant of the Kannadigas. I have dedicated my life to the service of the Kannada country and the Kannada people. I have not lost the opportunity that has been vouchsafed to me of serving Mysore, and through it the Kannada country and India in general. Though you in British Indian Karnatak and we in Mysore live under different political dispensations let us not for a moment forget that we are one and the same people. A common spirit and a common outlook animates us all. So long as I am Dewan I shall continue to serve Kannadigas to the best of my ability.”

Mr. A. G. Gardiner says of Lewis Harcourt: “Other men will prophesy; he will perform. Other men will create the atmosphere of change; he will give it form and shape. He is the man who puts things through.”

This could well be said of the present Dewan of Mysore. Sir Mirza is pre-eminently “the man who puts things through”. It is through the efforts of such men that the dream of a United Karnatak can come true.

CHAPTER IV

THE TAMIL AND KANNADA PRESS

DESHABANDHU

The *Deshabandhu* in its issue dated May 20, 1941, remarked:—

It is a well-known fact to-day that two great personalities have been responsible for the glorious reputation of Mysore that it is a Model State in every sense of the term—a reputation which has spread far and wide both in India and elsewhere. Of the two, first comes the august name of His Highness Sree Krishnarajendra Wadiyar IV, the late Maharaja of revered memory, whose passing in August last, was a great misfortune that befell Mysore and was universally acknowledged as an irreparable loss to the State. Next comes the name of Sir Mirza M. Ismail, a class-mate and companion of His late Highness. He was working as his Private Secretary, and was graciously appointed as the Dewan of Mysore in the year 1926.

Sir Mirza addressing a public assembly once said:

“Kalidasa, the immortal poet and dramatist of fourteen centuries ago, in his *Raghuvamsa*, the history of the Raghu dynasty, shows us that there were rulers who succeeded in climbing not far short of the Vedic ideal of Rulership. I do not think I shall be considered guilty on the one hand of sentimental exaggeration, or, on the other hand, of mere formality, when I say that I believe that we have in our own day and in our

own State a Ruler worthy of that great tradition. But if criticism were levelled at my belief, I would meet it with the fact that I, who was his school-fellow in boyhood, and afterwards his humble co-adjutor in the service of the State, have grown more and more to reverence the wisdom and strength that lie behind the quiet exterior of the Statesman, and at the same time have developed an ever-deepening affection for him through my increasing realisation of the aspirations and sympathies that characterise our gracious ruler."

It is but natural and proper that two such individuals, grown up with mutual affection and regard from their early days, should have similar characteristics, tendencies and ideals. It is no exaggeration, therefore, to say that His Highness' ideal virtues are to be found in Sir Mirza too. Like His Highness, Sir Mirza also is an able administrator, a skilful politician, the idol of the people, polite, æsthetic and patriotic. Both had the graces of a patient nature, a kindly heart, gentlemanly dignity and polished manners.

During his Dewanship for the past fifteen years, Sir Mirza worked as no one did for improving the condition of the people. He made strenuous efforts for the development of the State in several directions. He induced many loyal and philanthropic countrymen of his to found and consolidate several welfare organisations. He started many factories and other industrial concerns, as a result whereof the total revenue of the State increased from 3½ to 5 crores of rupees. He caused

considerable sums to be contributed to the sinking funds, which resulted in the discharge of the railway loan and helped towards the extension of the railway lines. He strove hard to see that the subsidy paid by Mysore was reduced and his efforts in this direction are memorable indeed. He has left no stone unturned in preparing the ground for the retrocession of the major part of the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore. Sir Mirza has thus ably administered the State with unremitting care, incessant zeal, extraordinary foresight and profound skill, while loyalty, patriotism and love of his countrymen comprise the motive spring of his action. He has held high His Highness' motto 'I uphold truth' in its untarnished glory. It is a misfortune of Mysore that peculiar circumstances have conspired to make his retirement inevitable within the short period of ten months after the demise of His late Highness although his term of office in the normal course of events would have lasted for 15 to 16 months more. All sympathetic persons would be very happy indeed if Sir Mirza M. Ismail should become an all-India figure.

Sir Mirza is a kind-hearted gentleman and he is a friend of the poor. Space permits us to give only a few instances of his sympathy for the poor. It is well known that he toured in the State frequently and on one such occasion when the Dewan was listening to the representations of the ryots and giving suitable replies to them in a *pandal* erected in front of a Taluk Office, a middle-aged poor Brahmin rushed in to their midst and explained, with tears and sobs, how he and his family

had gone over from their village, hearing of the visit of the Dewan, how they had to be content on the previous night with a very scanty meal of *ragi* balls, after begging for the *ragi* flour and how the whole family was starving that day. The Government had resumed his garden in connection with the arrears of land revenue. He and his family would be helped, if the same was returned to him and he would pay up the arrears of land revenue in instalments. It would be a great help to him, if he could be given some appointment. The Dewan was moved to tears at the wretched condition of the supplicant and asked one of the officers present to see that the land in question was released and that some appointment on eight or ten rupees per month was given to him so that he might eke out his livelihood and that of his family. On another occasion, Sir Mirza had attended service in a temple and was returning to his car on foot under the scorching mid-day sun. He was accosted by a widow who produced before him her boy aged seven or eight years and told him how the youngster had been deprived by the people there of his father's *pateli huk*, another being nominated in his place. As a result, she and her son were starving; she begged that the *pateli* might be registered in the boy's name and the duties of the office looked after by a *gumastha*, who might be asked to give them monetary help for the time being. Then and there, the Dewan called for the Taluk authorities on the spot and told them to grant her request and report the matter to him. On another occasion, when Sir Mirza had been to the headquarters of a taluk

which was also a place of pilgrimage, he went to the Government choultry after visiting during the mid-day a temple, famous for its ancient and beautiful sculpture. All the rooms of the choultry had been closed and the doors had been locked. The pilgrims, having bathed in the river closeby, were cooking their food on the verandah. The Dewan was moved to pity at the plight of those pilgrims. On enquiry, the officials stated that in pursuance of a Government Order, the supply of food had been stopped and the rooms had been closed and locked. Sir Mirza felt that the officials had been wanting in discretion and that the Order in question contemplated the discontinuance of free feeding only and not the provision of accommodation to visitors. He then had the doors of the choultry open, so that the pilgrims might cook their food inside the building. In another place, the entire *cheri* where the depressed classes were living had been washed away by floods, and the local officials had not given separate dwelling accommodation to the people, though four or five years had elapsed thereafter. The families concerned interviewed Sir Mirza and submitted their difficulties with tears in their eyes. Sir Mirza fully sympathised with them and ordered the local Revenue Officer to look to their housing and to report the matter to him within a week. Sir Mirza and his party once saw at a forest lodge a large number of persons belonging to the Kadu Kuruba community employed in felling trees, in transplanting new plants in their place and in transporting timber elsewhere. Poor fellows! they

came to him with their womenfolk and children and prostrated themselves before the Dewan. All of them were practically nude with their bloated and protruding bellies. Sir Mirza was visibly moved at their pitiable condition and enquired the Forest Officer if he could not relieve the misery of these people. The latter replied that he was helpless as all the money due as remuneration for their labour went to the toddy shop. Sir Mirza, therefore, issued instructions for the starting of a Society for them and that, instead of paying them directly, the remuneration might be paid into the Society which might arrange for supplies in kind so that there could be no scope for wasting any money on drink. There are any number of such anecdotes illustrative of the melting sympathy of Sir Mirza. In short, the history of Sir Mirza's official life is a memorable record of noble deeds which can never be forgotten. May God bless him with long life, health and prosperity.

Before concluding this article, we would like to give a recent incident which shows the most profound devotion, affection and loyalty he had for His Highness the late Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur. After he had had an audience with His Highness the Maharaja, on his return from the Nilgiris, Sir Mirza Ismail returned to "Lake View", his official residence at Mysore, and then went with a number of garlands and fragrant flowers to the last remains of His Highness Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar IV place in "*Madhuvana*" (near Doddakere) where His Highness had been cremated, and placed them there

and decorated the place with flowers, prayed for a while with his eyes closed and then returned to "Lake View", preparatory to his departure for Bangalore.

PRAJA BANDHU

The *Praja Bandhu* in its issue dated June 1, 1941, remarked:—

Every well-wisher of Mysore, who desires the State to progress is very much pained at the news that Sir Mirza M. Ismail, who was the Dewan for the past fifteen years and who earned the reputation both in India and elsewhere that he was an ideal minister whose able administration made Mysore the most progressive of the Indian States, has been granted leave for one year preparatory to retirement. There is no doubt that by his retirement Mysore will be deprived of the ideal administration of an ideal Dewan.

The reputation Sir Mirza earned in 15 years, cannot be earned by others even in 150 years, should it be possible for them to live for such a long period. His charming personal magnetism and his smiling countenance attracted the people to him. Whatever may be the circumstance, Sir Mirza invariably remains unruffled and has always a sweet smile on his lips.

During his Dewanship of fifteen years, Sir Mirza gained the affection of everyone in the State—men and women, old and young—and that irrespective of differences of caste and creed. His frequent personal visits to temples, churches and

mosques and his keen interest in them and his timely suggestions for their improvement and for their better management testify to his catholicity and religious toleration, which are of a very high order indeed.

In the case of his predecessors, it was almost impossible for people to see them personally and represent their difficulties. But with a view to establish intimate contact with the people and to see them personally, Sir Mirza made it a point to welcome visitors on every Friday and Saturday and give them a patient hearing at the interviews and to help them as far as he could possibly do so in the particular circumstance of each case. This made him a great Dewan. Indeed, Sir Mirza has set a noble example in this behalf for his successors to follow. He was easily accessible to any and every visitor who desired to interview him. He used to associate even more freely and intimately with the people at large than he did with high officers of the State and that in an undisguised manner and made kindly enquiries about them.

He deeply loved the poor and destitute, helped many of them to get employment, encouraged the enterprising and enthusiastic to go ahead, and relieved not a few of their difficulties with monetary help.

It is no exaggeration to say that if to-day Mysore is a Model State, the credit for it should go to Sir Mirza, who raised her to the present position. His services to the State and its people for the past fifteen years deserve to be written in letters of gold. He got the subsidy reduced, and

took a keen interest in the electrification of villages and in the provision of improved irrigational facilities to villages. His healthy influence kindled love of philanthropy in many a rich countryman of his and as a result thereof munificent gifts and donations followed which helped not a little for the construction of new hospitals, dispensaries, *dharmasalas* and other useful institutions. He is the bold, benevolent administrator who made Mysore the home of industrial enterprise. The secret of his reputation as a great administrator lies in his constant care for the welfare of the people of Mysore, his incessant and unremitting toil for improving their condition and his intimate association with the people at large sharing equally in their joys and sorrows.

Though he is to retire from the Dewanship, his thoughts are still centred round the progress of Mysore. We hope that in his retirement he will participate in the public life of the State, associate more intimately with those for whom he laboured for fifteen years as Dewan, continue in his individual capacity to do his best for their advancement, help the State to hold high the flag of its reputation, work as an illustrious and ideal leader of us all who are his beloved countrymen and help us in realising our ideals.

May God shower His choicest blessings on Sir Mirza!

SAMYUKTA KARNATAKA

The *Samyukta Karnataka*, dated May 13, 1941, wrote thus:—

Newspapers in Mysore have published that Sir Mirza M. Ismail has resigned his Dewanship of the State. The political atmosphere there has deeply stirred. His retirement has come too soon and we hardly expected that such a contingency would arise now. Writing about the Dewanship of Mysore a few days back we had even expressed the view that the question as to who would be the next Dewan was too premature to be discussed. Events are moving very fast indeed!

Sir Mirza was one of those who worked hard for the industrial advancement of the State. He furthered and brought to fruition several schemes of Sir M. Visvesvaraya. No other Indian State has so many industrial factories as are to be found in Mysore. May be that every one of the many factories in Mysore might not be a financial success at present. There can be no doubt that they will all prove to be successes financially in the years to come. Delay in industrialisation is never conducive to the benefit of the country and factories will have to be financed and started as a bold venture. Now the policy of Sir Mirza was not a policy of delay and tardiness. If he had not boldly encouraged the Paper Factory, it would never have been started at all. Before the war began, many people felt that the factory was doomed to fail. We do not maintain by any means that the industrial policy of Sir Mirza was perfect in every way. It might have

been defective in some particulars but it is to be admitted on all hands that his policy has been a great success. One of the reasons for his resignation seems clearly to have been that the Government of India did not favourably view his industrial policy in Mysore. It is hardly necessary to mention how the Government of India was disposed towards the automobiles factory proposed to be established in Mysore.

It may safely be stated that Sir Mirza's administration for the last fifteen years has been a great success, though it was defective in certain ways. No other Dewan continued in office so long and it is a privilege worthy of congratulation that Sir Mirza who was born and bred in Mysore should have had the rare fortune of having risen to the highest administrative position in the State. Even his worst enemies can never doubt his fitness for the Dewanship. His patriotism, political sagacity, administrative ability, diplomatic skill, broad vision, rare experience and expert propaganda are commendable indeed and even in foreign countries he is very widely known, his name coming only next to those of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Invaluable has been his work at the Round Table Conference and it would not be wrong to say that he is the very embodiment of the harmonious blend of the best in both the Hindu and Muslim cultures. We gratefully acknowledge the rare service he has rendered to the Kannada country and Kannada language. We know it definitely that Sir Mirza had ardently desired that the glory and fame of the Karnataka should spread far and wide. It is

but natural that those who continue in a high office for long should become unpopular. If the Dewan had viewed with more favour the hopes and aspirations of the people in Mysore and if he had been more sympathetically disposed towards the Mysore Congress, we are sure that his glorious reputation would have all the more enhanced. His administration was excessively centralised and it was intensely personal. It redounds to the credit of Sir Mirza's sagacity that he has submitted his resignation at this juncture.

SANMARGADARSAKA

The *Sanmargadarsaka*, dated May 25, 1941, observed:—

Our readers will remember that Sir Mirza M. Ismail, who has been the Dewan of our State continuously for the last fifteen years, tendered his resignation on account of certain political reasons and that the news has already been brought to the notice of our readers in the columns of our previous issues. We have reverted to the topic as there seems to be some doubt still entertained in certain quarters in this matter. Neither to our readers, nor even to outsiders, is Sir Mirza a stranger. Nay, it would be no exaggeration to claim that even outside India his name is familiar to every one. Apart from this, his services to the country are worthy of being written in letters of gold. It is not easy to estimate his patriotism, loyalty to the throne, his concern for the

welfare of the people and his popularity. It is but natural, therefore, that his resignation for political reasons is very much regretted both in and outside this country. Many influential gentlemen tried to persuade Sir Mirza to take back his resignation and even suggested that they should lead a deputation to His Highness the Maharaja and pray him for the continuation of his services. But their efforts proved fruitless. Sir Mirza then consoled them by informing them that he would remain in Bangalore alone and try to gain the affection and regard of the people by further service and every one is aware of it. It is evident that although Sir Mirza is a Muslim by birth, he surpasses in actions and conduct all those who call themselves Hindus.

Loyalty and gratitude are ingrained in him and every cultured soul will be delighted to hear that, after all that has happened, Sir Mirza's act on his return to Mysore from Ootacamund, a few days back, was to go to the cremation ground in "Madhuvana", where Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar IV was cremated and to offer his heartfelt devotion, placing garlands and flowers there and to return home after a few silent prayerful moments. In the present circumstances, it has been felt by world-famous personalities like Sir M. Visvesvaraya, ex-Dewan of Mysore, that it is a misfortune to Mysore that Sir Mirza should have resigned the Dewanship at this juncture. It is a matter for universal satisfaction and joy throughout the State that His Highness Sri Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur has, in reply to the resignation, granted Sir Mirza leave for one year

in consideration of his services to the State. It has added to the reputation of Mysore that His Highness, though young in years, has issued an order characterized by deep insight and circumspection and fully worthy of mature experience. We pray God to bless His Highness, the members of the Royal Family as also His Highness' advisers who have given him such broad-minded foresight.

SWADESHAMITRAN

The *Swadeshmitran*, the leading Tamil newspaper of India, in its issue dated May 12, 1941, remarked:—

Mysore has been fortunate in her Dewans—many of them have been statesmen of quality. Sir Mirza Ismail belongs to their lordly company. It is not without a pang that we have heard of his intention to lay down the reins. Not Mysoreans alone but all who have the welfare of this major State at heart will regret this decision.

Sir Mirza has functioned in the ambit of happy circumstance with rare distinction. He could dare and do because he had the implicit trust of the late Sovereign. Their friendship which struck root in the springtime of youth grew with the passing years. Sir Mirza's tenure as Private Secretary to His Highness provided opportunities aplenty for each to size up the other accurately. The affairs of State could be carried on in an atmosphere of mutual confidence. Elevation to the Dewanship followed as a matter of course. He

had all the qualifications—administrative ability, spirit of consecration to the service of the people, an overmastering impulse to build Mysore anew. No wonder the fame of the State he has governed so sagaciously has spread far beyond the confines of our native land.

It may be his predecessors hatched quite a few ambitious schemes. But his was the brain that explored avenues of fulfilment, his the energies that were devoted to carrying them through. He bore a formidable burden with grace and did a deal of trail blazing by himself. To him must be assigned the credit for the industrial development that has taken place in Mysore in recent years. The care with which he husbanded the resources of the State has borne fruit in increased revenues and a decided improvement in the economic conditions of the masses. He strove hard to have the projected automobile factory located at Bangalore. Grievous must have been his disappointment at the failure of the vital negotiations in this regard. His efforts can never be forgotten, though.

Sir Mirza's acute æsthetic sensibilities are a byword. He realised early that the charms of Mysore, the advantages she owes to a kind and bounteous Nature, must be tempered with modern ideals of planning to make them irresistible. Whoever visits the cities of Mysore and Bangalore cannot help sending up a silent tribute of praise for his unceasing endeavours to make them beautiful.

Sir Mirza has known no rest during his regime—so completely did he identify himself with the longer interests of the State. No detail was too

small for his scrutiny. The picture comes to mind of this great statesman on horseback rushing here, there and everywhere, himself supervising the construction of imposing structures, guiding the men on the spot.

The new constitution of Mysore sets no pattern of perfection. We have often pointed out where it falls short of actual need. But we had hoped that, under Sir Mirza's skilful steering, the blemishes would be thrust in the shade and the increasing participation of the people in governance shine forth as the glorious actuality. His resignation at this juncture is all the more to be regretted.

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A writer in the *Swadeshmitran*, June 8, 1941, thus described Sir Mirza, the man and his work:—

After a devoted and brilliant record of service to the State for over 36 years, of which 15 years were spent as the head of the administration, Amin-ul-Mulk Sir Mirza M. Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, proceeds on leave from to-day for one year preparatory to retirement.

"I regard the office of Dewan less as an appointment than as a great mission of patriotic service."

A keen student of history who has followed the march of events both in Mysore and in India will unhesitatingly come to the conclusion that Sir Mirza M. Ismail was almost prophetic when he uttered the above words nearly 16 years ago.

He has, by his wise administration of the Mysore State earned the gratitude and love of all classes of subjects of His Highness the Maharaja and has established his greatness as an eminent Indian statesman. While the people in the State have to be grateful to their Ruler that the administration of the State was entrusted to Sir Mirza Ismail which has resulted in such benevolent results, Sir Mirza himself can congratulate himself that it had been given to him to administer this 'Model State' with such signal success.

Everywhere in the State, the personal influence and touch of Sir Mirza are visible and he has endeared himself to one and all. "We have to exert ourselves to the utmost in every direction in order to maintain the good name of our State, to raise its prestige abroad and to add to its renown as a friend of all progressive movements." With such noble ideals, Sir Mirza set upon his task in 1926 and during the past 15 years he has given of his best and has put Mysore on the map of the world.

The secret of Sir Mirza's success lies in the remarkable circumstance that His Highness the late Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar had vouchsafed to his old class-mate and Prime Minister his implicit confidence. It is no exaggeration to say that it was not given to any other Dewan of the Ruling Prince of Mysore to enjoy anything like the same degree of implicit confidence as the late Maharaja had vouchsafed to Sir Mirza. The stewardship of Sir Mirza has fully justified this confidence. Having had abundant opportunity of getting an insight into the mental make-up of him who was

wont to study, discuss, play and ride with him for long years and of understanding the innermost springs of his character, His Highness had learnt to trust his Dewan in full measure. When Carlyle wrote that no man was great to his valet, he did not know Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar of Mysore.

In many ways, the period of office of Sir Mirza M. Ismail as Dewan has been one of exceptional challenge and opportunity—a time of challenge to the wisest of statesmanship. Sir Mirza inherited from his predecessors a policy of industrialisation of the country. The continued failure from some of the major State concerns like the Bhadravati Iron Works, left some people doubtful if the policy was not one of gambling with public funds. The Bhadravati Iron Works were described as a 'white elephant' and a serious suggestion was made on the floor of the Legislative Council to close down these works. Despite captious critics, Sir Mirza strengthened and extended the policy he had inherited and contributed to the evolution of an economic order in Mysore, which has won admiration from industrialists and statesmen all over the country. Sir Mirza has, by his impetus to industries, contributed to the nationalising the ownership and exploitation of some of the most important instruments of production and reducing to a corresponding extent that part of the income of the State derived from direct and indirect taxation.

The budgetary position which Sir Mirza inherited was not, from the point of view of a progressive State like Mysore, all that could be wished for.

Added to this, four years after he assumed charge of the administration, the economic slump set in. It is an eloquent tribute to his statesmanship and wise husbanding of the State's resources, that Sir Mirza was able to show, after tiding over the economic blizzard for over 7 years, an unimpeachable budgetary position, while at the same time embarking on a policy of wise economic planning of the State.

The remarkable progress Mysore has made in the industrial field is too well known to need reiteration. The Mysore Sugar Company, the Mysore Paper Mills, the addition of the Steel Plant to the Bhadravati Iron Works, the Porcelain Factory, the Mysore Glass and Enamel Works, the Mysore Spun Silk Mills, Ltd., the Implements Factory at Hassan and the Match Factory at Shimoga are the off-springs of Sir Mirza's foresight and wise planning. He not only started new industries, but believed in their development. Sir Mirza is a great believer in exhibitions as the "time keepers of progress" in an industrially backward country like India. Sir Mirza has made sustained efforts to make the Dasara Exhibition at Mysore an annual event and this Exhibition which is housed in an imposing building, has set up a high standard for the people of the State, showing the best that can be done with the many material advantages with which God has blessed Mysore, blended with the sympathy and guidance of a patriot like Sir Mirza.

Sir Mirza has been a very successful administrator and statesman and is a very powerful man in India.

One of the earliest and most signal success that attended Sir Mirza's efforts as Dewan was in the sphere of the financial relations of Mysore with the Government of India. Till 1927, Mysore was paying annually Rs. 35 lakhs as subsidy to the Paramount Power. The unjustifiable and inequitable nature of this tribute have been stressed times out of number by both the Government and people alike. Mysore pays the heaviest of these tributes. Out of a total of Rs. 82 lakhs, being "contributions from Indian States" Mysore paid till 14 years ago Rs. 35 lakhs per year. In 1927, Lord Irwin, then Viceroy of India (now Lord Halifax, British Ambassador in the United States of America) visited Mysore and announced a permanent remission of Rs. 10½ lakhs in this subsidy. This memorable event, is pre-eminently a tribute to the skill and diplomacy which have marked Sir Mirza's negotiations with the Government of India on this matter.

Sir Mirza's tours in the interior parts were great events. The identity of the ruled and the Ruler was very apparent. The people of all castes and creeds welcomed the head of the administration and freely expressed to him their grievances and to one and all of them, he gave a patient hearing. The talks which Sir Mirza would have under the trees at the 'Travellers' Bungalows made the task of administration easy, though some of the local officials who had exercised their position as undisputed monarchs in their area, felt rather uncomfortable. Sir Mirza would order the grant of free sites and the restoration of major and minor tanks

and the starting of irrigation works on the spur of the moment and it is a great tribute to his sagacity that these huge works ordered without hesitation and going through the routine of the red-tape have proved of immense benefit to the ryots. In these tours, during some of which the writer had the privilege of accompanying the Dewan, many a problem which had awaited solution for nearly a century, had been solved. Human sympathy and understanding which Sir Mirza possesses in abundance have elevated Sir Mirza on a very high pedestal. The driving force with which Sir Mirza conducted these tours is something stupendous. The officials who would go round with the Dewan would find their memo pads full of suggestions given by the Dewan for the beautification of the town or village and for the development of rural and cottage industries which would go a long way towards the development of the moral and material progress of the people. Sir Mirza has made an intimate study of the problem of rural reconstruction in all its essential bearings. The spirit of progress was encouraged and the co-operation of the people with the Government was invited and secured in full measure.

One of the most remarkable features of Sir Mirza's stewardship is the great response of private philanthropy to the call of Government. Thanks to his personal influence and sweetness and charm, men of means all over the State have come forward with benefactions to help the cause of educational progress, of medical relief and such other projects for the moral and material progress

of the people at large. Mysore has during the last decade demonstrated to the world that there is a moral equivalent to communism, *viz.*, philanthropy and this Sir Mirza has helped to create and has abundantly tried to foster it.

Sir Mirza fully believed with Keats that 'a thing of beauty is a joy for ever' and everywhere in the State, even in the remotest part, evidences are not wanting of the 'Mirza touch'. While the economic prosperity of the State was the very soul of his administrative policy, the eyes of this policy, it can be said, were the two cities of Mysore and Bangalore. These two cities which are described as the cleanest cities in India, owe their development mostly to the æsthetic taste of Sir Mirza. People in Bangalore and Mysore cities are too familiar with Sir Mirza going on horseback with a number of officers walking by his side and the additions and alterations made thereby. The stately buildings in Bangalore and Mysore are the result of the architectural taste and desire for orderliness of Sir Mirza.

While there were enough internal problems to engage his attention, political developments in British India did not escape his notice and as the representative of this premier State of Mysore and some other States, Sir Mirza has played a conspicuous part in the Round Table Conferences in London. In 1930 he attended the first R.T.C. representing Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Pudukottah. In the next year, he attended the second R.T.C. as the representative of Mysore, Jaipur and Jodhpur. He also helped to give the

finishing touches to the scheme of Reforms during the third R.T.C. Sir Mirza was one of the most distinguished of the Indian members who were asked to assist the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Sir Mirza rose to his full stature as an eminent Indian statesman. While Sir Mirza has always been of the opinion that the line of future development of India as a whole lay in the direction of Federation, he considers that closer union must be economic in the first instance and that the consummation of a political union would be a natural consequence of a real economic zollverein. Sir Mirza took part in these deliberations and conferences in the spirit of an Indian desiring for the Motherland a position of honour among the nations constituting the British Commonwealth, all united in allegiance to the Crown.

The secret for the success of Sir Mirza in his arduous task as Prime Minister of this Hindu State, has to be looked for in his great and powerful personality. Tall and slim with a proud profile adorned with a Grecian nose, Sir Mirza attracts attention as a man of broad outlook and refined tastes. He speaks with characteristic urbanity and debonair smile with which he greets the visitor and they leave on the latter an indelible mark about this great and charming man. Sir Mirza is an engaging conversationalist. He is neither assertive nor argumentative. He is suggestive. He does not stampede you into accepting his view-point: he presents it for your acceptance and almost invariably one comes out greatly impressed by the deference he pays to your judgment. He is easily

accessible to the poor and the rich alike, as also to the official and the non-official.

Sir Mirza who has given of his best to the State for the past 36 years is to-day handing over charge to Rajamantrapravina N. Madhava Rao. During his stewardship, Sir Mirza has fought vigorously and in a most dignified manner for the abolition of the Subsidy and the Retrocession of the Civil and Military Station to the Durbar. One would have wished him to see, while yet in office, the consummation of his cherished hopes. Sir Mirza is retiring at a time when the new Reforms for which he was greatly responsible are to be inaugurated. One could not easily reconcile oneself to his departure at this juncture. But Providence has willed it otherwise. Sir Mirza in his retirement will continue to watch the progress of Mysore and see the logical development of many a well-considered, well-thought-out and well-schemed plan of his. He has the wish of all people that he will be spared many years of useful public service to the State and the Motherland.

SWATANTRA KARNATAKA

The *Swatantra Karnataka*, in its issue dated May 16, 1941, observed:—

We deeply regret to hear that Sir Mirza—the Statesman who took the leading part in the creation of Model Mysore—will lay down the office of the Dewan of the State on the last day of this month. Every patriot will be grieved and surprised at this unexpected resignation of one who was the

play-mate and class-mate of the saintly Ruler, Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar IV, and due to his unsurpassed virtues was the confidant of that gracious sovereign and who, as Dewan of Mysore for about fifteen years, rendered great service to the Model State of Mysore and in so doing served the whole of India.

It is noteworthy that although the extension of service granted by His Highness the late Maharaja has to terminate only after eighteen months, Sir Mirza, who has a keen sense of self-respect and who is a patriot, is resigning his office on account of certain sharp differences of political views. It is noteworthy in the history of Mysore that Sir Mirza is resigning from the same place and for the same reason as did that noble Mysorean—Sir M. Visvesvaraya. We regard it as a misfortune of and as a great loss for Mysore that this great son of Mysore, who is unsurpassed in his loyalty and devotion, being sympathetic to one and all and knowing no invidious distinctions, who regarded service to His Highness and his subjects as the *summum bonum* of his life, and who is an ardent patriot with an international reputation to boot, has relinquished his office so suddenly. During his long regime, extending over a period of fifteen years, Sir Mirza has enhanced the reputation of the State which has progressed in many directions. The industrial policy followed in Mysore is a model for the rest of India. During the Dewan-ship of Sir Mirza, there has been many-sided development. Education, agriculture, trade and health have all improved very much in Mysore, under his

supervision. The premier cities of Bangalore and Mysore and all the important towns of the State, as also the villages, have progressed tremendously. Mysore is to-day known as the Switzerland of India. Thanks to the æsthetic sense and foresight of Sir Mirza, the Brindavan at Krishnarajasagara, the parks at Mysore and Bangalore, the reconstructed temples in Belur, Halebid and Somnathpur, and the charm of the public life in Mysore, owe a good deal to the helping hand of Sir Mirza, who had won the goodwill of the late Maharaja. During his Dewanship, Mysore attained vast political progress. The new Reforms in Mysore were shaped as much by His Highness the late Maharaja's affectionate solicitude for the welfare of his subjects as by Sir Mirza's patriotic zeal. During his tenure of office, the latter had to a very large extent conducted himself agreeably to one and all, treating the rich and the poor alike without any distinction whatsoever. We are confident that every impartial observer will agree that no Dewan has been so popular as Sir Mirza. His kindly disposition was responsible for a number of charitable institutions like hospitals, hostels, clock-towers, choultries, tanks and wells coming into being, with the generous help of rich philanthropists in the State and they have all contributed in no small degree to the well-being of the State. In this connection, we would state that there has been no minister in Mysore, if not in the whole of India even, of the calibre of Sir Mirza Ismail.

Amin-ul-Mulk Sir Mirza M. Ismail is quite as much a lover of Karnataka and of India as of

Mysore. Further, he is a citizen of the world. His innate greatness and nobility are exemplified by the fact that he considers himself to be a member of the family of nations and this healthy spirit has ennobled this highly cultured soul.

We may justly feel proud of the fact that just as in Mysore, he is held in respect everywhere in the whole of Karnataka, and even throughout India. He is a front rank citizen; a Kannadiga by birth; and a born lover of Kannada. He is one who ardently desires the unification of Karnataka and its progress under the Mysore (Gandabherunda) Flag. He is for the freedom of India. He is a lover of humanity at large. It is but natural that a gentleman endowed with such noble qualities as these should command affection and respect throughout Mysore, and throughout Karnataka and throughout India and even throughout the world.

His personal virtues are as attractive as his political genius. Sir Mirza, Dewan of Mysore, is a faithful servant of the State, patriot and philosopher and a devotee of God and above all, an unassuming, polite and a clean man whose life has a charm all its own. Those who know him intimately, and who have understood the noble ideals of his life, rank him with the greatest sons of India like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Sir Sapru and the Rt.-Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastry. We assert without fear of contradiction that of the great men who spread the fame of Karnataka far and wide, if we except Sir M. Visvesvaraya, there is perhaps none who can equal Sir Mirza. Fortunate,

indeed, is the land of Karnataka which has produced such a great man.

In the course of his monumental achievements, during the long period of his Dewanship, Sir Mirza might have committed a few slips now and then and might have caused some hardship to a few individuals. These, however, are but due to natural human failings. We would like to invite the attention of the public to a remark once made by the late Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty to the effect that if even God were to assume the reigns of administration, He cannot satisfy all the sections of the public. The observation of Kalidasa in one of his *Kavyas* to the effect that in the presence of great many good qualities, a few blemishes, if there should be any, ought to be ignored is, indeed, noteworthy in this connection, as it is really of universal application and that for all time Sir Mirza is, on the whole, a very great man with the noblest qualities of head and heart.

We fully endorse the view of those who state that it would have greatly benefited the State if Sir Mirza had continued as the Dewan for some time more; for it would have been of great assistance to the youthful Maharaja on the eve of the inauguration of the new Constitutional Reforms and that especially so in view of the fact that a lover of Mysore, as he is, Sir Mirza rose to eminence as the protege of His Highness the late Maharaja, earning the affection and esteem of both His Highness the late Maharaja and His Highness' subjects and is a worthy friend of the State with intimate knowledge and experience of the political affairs of the State.

Had it been so, not only would the promise of the late Maharaja have been fulfilled, but the well-wishers of Mysore would also have been satisfied. But who can correctly gauge and prophesy things to come? If it is the divine will that he should serve the whole of India, it is not in man's power to stand in his way and to shape the future in a different way. The providential purpose which has necessitated the voluntary submission of his resignation by such a great man is really unfathomable mystery. It is not in vain that it is said in the *Upanishads* that without His will nothing happens in this world.

We pray that the Almighty may enable Sir Mirza to dedicate his purposeful life to work for the progress of Mysore and India and for his own edification and self-realisation.

VISVAKARNATAKA

The *Visvakarnataka* dated May 31, 1941, observed:—

In the annals of the State (in recent years) the 1st of May 1926 and the 31st of May 1941 are two of the memorable dates. On the 1st of May 1926, Sir Mirza M. Ismail took into his hands the reigns of administration as Dewan of the State. On 31st May 1941, he laid down his office. That is, he took charge of the administration on the first day and relinquished office on the last day of the month of May. He was thus continuously in office for fifteen years. During the long period

he was in office, he tried to give effect to all his ideas and we have to admit that he was successful in his attempts.

The incidence of direct taxation is pressing heavily on the people of Mysore. They are hardly capable of bearing the burden of any further taxation. The Government needs money and without an increase in the revenues, it would become impossible to take up any improvement works whatsoever. It is of paramount importance, therefore, that the revenue of the State should be increased by means of industrial expansion and not by further taxation. Through industrial expansion, it is possible for the Government not only to augment their income by the returns yielded by their capital investments but also to provide for the employment to thousands of both educated and uneducated men. Moreover, industrial expansion improves the business habits of the people at large and increases their earning power; while it also better the economic position of the State. Sir Mirza realised this prime fact and boldly ventured to start many a big industrial enterprise and encouraged hundreds of small industrial concerns as well. It is obviously not possible to give here a complete list of all the industries started during these fifteen years. The results of the new industrial policy are reflected in the increase and growth of the Joint Stock Companies, in the increased income-tax revenue and in the growing incomes from several industrial and trade enterprises. In 1925-26, there were 118 Joint Stock Companies, with the total paid-up capital of Rs. 163·93 lakhs. In 1939-40, there

were 205 Joint Stock Companies, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 247.72 lakhs. In 1925-26, the receipts under income-tax and other miscellaneous taxes amounted to Rs. 24.45 lakhs, while in the year 1939-40, receipts under income-tax alone amounted to Rs. 29.59 lakhs. In 1925-26, the revenue under trade and industries amounted to Rs. 35.05 lakhs while in 1939-40, it rose to Rs. 82.10 lakhs. The income under the head "Royalty from Mines", which was Rs. 12.47 lakhs in 1925-26, increased to Rs. 30.17 lakhs in 1939-40. We feel that there is no need to go any further as the figures speak for themselves.

Rural reconstruction and the improvement of the life of the *raiya*s were among the objectives that constantly exercised the mind of Sir Mirza. After mature deliberation in the matter, Sir Mirza adopted irrigational development and spread of improved methods of agriculture. Anicuts were constructed across rivers and irrigational facilities were increased and arable lands were newly brought under cultivation, while action was taken to improve the economic condition of the *raiya*, who was helped to harvest better produce by means of popularising scientific methods of agriculture; distribution of seeds, and cattle-breeding. Nor was this all. The *raiya* was also helped to grow money crops which were greatly in demand and for which there was a ready market. He did much for the *raiya* and deservedly earned an enduring reputation. It is not possible to give a list of the bridges, tanks and channels newly constructed or completed or nearing completion during his time. Suffice it

to say that he has left no river, tank or channel unharnessed, in his zeal to press them into service for the benefit of the *raiyyat*. His scheme in this behalf embraced almost all the sources of water-supply in the State and he will be long remembered for his beneficial schemes in this behalf.

Secondly, he established rural reconstruction centres. It was his dream that ere long every village should be enabled to boast of a school, a dispensary, a well and electric power and electric lights. Nor was it a mere dream, as all these things did materialise in many a village; 151 villages thus scintillated with electric lights, while 46 villages began to use electric pumps for irrigational purposes. Wells for drinking water were sunk in 13,040 villages. Many Village Panchayats opened dispensaries, realising the importance of village sanitation. Inter-village communication was attended to and many villages were connected by main roads. All these benefits came as a result of the determined effort and purposeful zeal of Sir Mirza M. Ismail.

In 1925-26, the Government collected Rs. 138·41 lakhs by way of land revenue. This was reduced to Rs. 124·22 lakhs in the year 1939-40, which meant that the burden of taxation under this head was lessened to the extent of Rs. 13·64 lakhs.

Sir Mirza had many dreams and one of them was to make the Mysore State a paradise on earth. With this glorious object in his view, he toiled and toiled for the eradication of dirt and dust from towns, cities and villages, beautifying them and

creating amenities like public parks, children's corners and playgrounds, squares and circles and these in every conceivable locality. He transformed the two cities of Bangalore and Mysore, so that they to-day rank among the most attractive cities in the world. He also helped towards the beautification and reconstruction of many towns in the State. Neither did he fail to realise that health is wealth. He did everything that lay in his power to increase the number of medical institutions. By his magnetic personality, he induced several rich men to contribute for increasing medical aid in the State and the total sum contributed by them was as big as Rs. 25 lakhs. The number of medical institutions in the State increased from 202 in 1925-26 to 330 in 1939-40, while the number of beds in the hospitals increased to 3,210 in 1939-40 against 1,318 in 1939-40. These figures by themselves bear eloquent testimony to Sir Mirza Ismail's service to the State.

Sir Mirza Ismail's achievements are many and varied and whether we consider the extension of the railway lines or the provision of tarred roads or improved facilities for communication through the construction of bridges across the rivers, every one of them is an outstanding and lasting monument to the credit of Sir Mirza Ismail.

To sum up, Sir Mirza Ismail's loyalty is of a rare type and he is a great patriot, a skilful politician, and an experienced administrator. It has to be admitted that his administration has been a great economic success, and for this he deserves

to be congratulated. To-day when he is handing over charge of the administration, we offer him our sincere congratulations on the success that has attended on him.

VOKKALIGARA PATRIKE

The *Vokkaligara Patrike*, in its issue dated May 14, 1941, observed:—

We are deeply grieved to hear that *Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza M. Ismail, who has been the Dewan of Mysore for the past fifteen years, who worked for spreading the glory and fame of Mysore far and wide, who made Mysore the foremost of the Indian States, transforming Mysore and Bangalore into two of the most beautiful cities in India, and who has toiled day and night for the progress of Mysore in every possible direction, winning the affectionate regard of the people, is to retire at the end of this month.

In view of the extension of service graciously granted to him by the late Maharaja, he should have been in service for at least two years more. Indeed, it is regrettable that he is to retire so soon, and especially at a time when the new political reforms have to be inaugurated. We are not aware of the particular reasons for his laying down the office at this juncture. Whatever the reasons might have been, we do not propose to probe into the matter. Suffice it to say that he ought to have continued in service for some time longer. It was

in the fitness of things that the new Reforms ushered in as a result of his labours, should have been launched during his own regime. Mysore has lost that golden opportunity. Our regrets for the loss can hardly be exaggerated.

His administrative capacity, popularity, patriotism and progressive outlook are memorable and unsurpassable. His name will be carved in letters of gold among the illustrious administrators who have rendered monumental service to the Mysore Throne. He has secured a permanent place among those noble servants of the State, occupying the front line, like Dewan Rangacharlu, Sir Seshadri Iyer and Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

Never before had Mysore achieved such progress as during his regime of fifteen years. So far as industrial progress is concerned, no part of India has gone as far as Mysore. This is due solely to the industrial policy followed by Sir Mirza.

Sir Mirza's æsthetic sense is testified to by the beautification of the cities of Bangalore and Mysore and the laying out of the world-famous Brindavan Gardens at Krishnarajasagara. Adverting to the political reforms, it cannot be gainsaid that even here no other Indian State has gone so far as Mysore has done. Even a brief account of what all Sir Mirza has done for Mysore, would easily constitute a stout volume.

Sir Mirza is a very amiable person with a benign and beaming smile. Everybody knows the interest and enthusiasm he was evincing in the welfare of the people and his easy accessibility to every visitor who desired to interview him. It is

doubtless our misfortune that Sir Mirza is retiring from service at this juncture.

We pray God to bless him with long life and health and enable him to dedicate himself for the uplift of the country, making full use of his rich experience in that behalf.

VRITTA (DHARWAR)

The Dharwar *Vritta* wrote as follows:—

Every Kannadiga will be sorry to hear that Sir Mirza M. Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, will retire at the end of this month. Naturally the news will not fail to arrest one's attention for a moment at least and make him think for a while. We welcomed him last December when he toured in North Karnataka between the 4th and 11th of the month. During the tour, he gave a message of progress. At the Vidyavardhaka Sangha at Dharwar, he said in his address that he was a Kannadiga, and a servant of the Kannadigas and those words deserve to be written in letters of gold. Every one is curious to learn why such a great minister is retiring so soon. How we feel that he had at least served for a year more, till the end of the extension of service granted to him!

This Dewan of our Kannada land is of a class apart from the common run of Dewans in other States. Though a Muslim by birth, he was tolerant towards other religions, inspired as he is, by a high sense of national spirit. He is a seer who made no discrimination between the rich and the

poor or the high and the low. He used to complete the round of his responsibilities toiling laboriously day and night. He is not addicted to any of the bad habits that are usually to be found in the rich. He was a virtuous soul. He used to meet the *rai-yats* and villagers with his beaming smile and to try his level best to help them in their difficulties.

Such are the excellent virtues that have made him so popular and set him as a worthy example of others.

After taking up the office of the Dewan of Mysore on the 1st May 1926, he has transformed Bangalore and Mysore into Garden Cities and encouraged big industrial enterprises. No praise can be considered too much for the bold stand taken by him in working out schemes of development involving lakhs of rupees, such as the rural water supply scheme, for sinking drinking water wells in all the villages of the State and projects like the Jog Electric Project and the Bhatkal Port Project, so vital to the interests of Kannadigas generally. His offer to give financial assistance for providing a habitation to the local Karnataka Sangha when he visited Belgaum is, indeed, laudable. The statements made by him during the tour, in the matter of the Karnataka University, the establishment of a broadcasting station and the cultural unification of the Karnataka cannot but make him long-remembered by the Kannadigas. Nobody can approach him in his marvellous capacity for inducing the right to undertake noble and charitable deeds and the contributions for medical aid obtained from them during the Dewanship of

Sir Mirza, and this amounts to several lakhs of rupees. It is on account of his dynamic personality and capacity that the late Maharaja extended his term of office for five years from 1937.

Sir Mirza had gained vast experience of men and matters during the course of his European tours and by his participation in the deliberations of the Round Table Conference. There can be no gainsaying the fact that if Mysore is to-day a Model State in India, it is due to the services of Sir Mirza. The reasons for his retirement as stated in the news received from Mysore are such as to keenly afflict anyone. When he was working enthusiastically for starting an automobile factory in the State, the enterprise had to be forsaken. Added to this, differences of opinion regarding the nomination of two non-official members to the Executive Council also contributed their mite for his relinquishment of office. He must have taken it to heart very much that his object of having an automobile factory at Bangalore was frustrated, causing serious disappointment to Indians. This provides another instance of his sensitive temperament. Thus did a popular Dewan glorify the name of Mysore during his long regime of fifteen years. We hope that the new Dewan who has to take his place (there is a rumour that the First Member is likely to succeed him) will, in the interests of Karnataka, follow the policy of Sir Mirza and continue the good work of his predecessor under the direction of His Highness the Maharaja Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Bahadur.

VRITTANTA PATRIKE

The *Vrittanta Patrike* of Mysore observed as follows:—

It is stated in Kautilya's *Arthasastra* that Kingship becomes possible only with co-operation and that a single wheel does not make a vehicle. Only His Highness the late Maharaja knew the magnitude of the assistance given him by his Dewan, Sir Mirza M. Ismail, K.C.I.E., O.B.E. The author of *Arthasastra* quotes in the chapter on the choice of ministers, Bharadwaja's opinion that a king should select only his class-mates for the place, as he would have personal knowledge of their honesty and ability; but Visalaksha differs from Bharadwaja and opines that such class-mates will surely neglect the interests of their master. The intimate cordiality between His Highness the late Maharaja and Sir Mirza Ismail is a telling instance to prove that Bharadwaja's view was correct and to refute the argument of Visalaksha. The qualifications of a minister are enumerated as follows by Kautilya: He must be a native of the State and belong to a noble family. He should be influential, æsthetic, far-sighted and wise; have a keen memory and be brave, eloquent and able. He should also be intelligent, zealous, dignified and patient. His character should be spotless and irreproachable, his manner polished and pleasant. He should be courteous and loyal. Besides, he should be healthy, strong and bold, ever alert and active, free from vacillation, and at the same time amiable and devoid of characteristics likely to arouse hatred and animosity.

A minister endowed with these noble qualities would indeed, be a superman. Although we had to disagree with the policy and procedure of Sir Mirza on a few occasions and to place before him our view-points, we confess we are struck with wonder and admiration when we ponder over the fact that he is blessed with these noble qualities to a considerable extent and his actions bear an eloquent testimony to the same. We do not propose to review the great service he has rendered the State by his work as an administrator as it is premature to do so until and unless it is definitely known that his retirement is inevitable. In the meanwhile, it is rumoured that a deputation of influential citizens will wait upon His Highness the Maharaja to request him graciously to vouchsafe to the State the benefit of Sir Mirza's services. Whether there is any foundation for the rumour in question, it clearly shows in what high esteem and affection he is held by the majority of the subjects of the Mysore State and we fully concur with the opinion of those who feel that it is unfortunate that Sir Mirza should have to sever his connection with the State as Dewân just on the eve of the inauguration of the constitutional reforms for which he has strenuously worked. He has all the qualifications of an ideal minister and he has gained the affection and esteem of his countrymen by successfully carrying through many schemes for their moral and material development.

CHAPTER V

SOME OTHER INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS

MR. H. K. N. ACHARYA

Mr. H. K. N. Acharya, Shimoga, wrote in *Visvakarnataka* dated May 13, 1941:—

“It is to be regretted that Sir Mirza is retiring just on the eve of the inauguration of the Reforms granted by His Highness the late Maharaja. There must be weighty reasons for his taking this step. On His Highness the Maharaja rests the heavy responsibility of selecting an able Dewan. Let us hope that no outsider will be called upon to fill the place.”

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM

In the course of an interview with the representative of the *Tai Nadu* (May 3, 1941) Mr. K. T. Bhashyam, ex-President of the Mysore State Congress, observed as follows:—

“I am deeply grieved to learn that by the end of this month Sir Mirza will relinquish his high office. The suddenness with which the news has come has made me the more grieved.

Though we differed in our views, I held him in high esteem and I had personal regard for him.

His charming manners and pleasing words endeared him to one and all.

As Dewan, he has rendered the State a great service and during his administration, Mysore has progressed in many directions.

I had the hope that he would try to bring about cordial and friendly relations with us, thereby facilitating the establishment of peace and contentment in the public life of the State. But it was not to be, and from this view-point, I for one feel highly disappointed at his retirement.

Let us pray God to bless him with long life and health so that his activities as a private citizen might add to the laurels he has already won as the Dewan."

KHAN BAHADUR MUHAMMAD MUSA SAIT

Khan Bahadur Muhammad Musa Sait, President of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Madras, in his Presidential Address to it, remarked as follows on May 3, 1941 :—

"I must sincerely congratulate Mysore and her bold industrial policy. It is indeed a great gratification to all of us to see that, after a struggle of over 25 years, Mysore is to-day occupying the front rank among highly industrialised States in India. New industries have sprung up in that State, as a result of war, and private enterprise is given all facilities and encouragement to show itself. What is the tale in this Province? We are far behind Mysore in many respects. Instead of whipping up the industrial possibilities of this Province due particularly to the war, Government

were preventing much progress to be done. Unless a bold and new orientation is given to the present industrial policy of Government, we in this Province will have always to do wishful thinking. The cry for rapid industrialisation does not mean that the interests of the agriculturists will be neglected; on the other hand, it will positively aid the peasantry and its income from the land.

I am sorry for Mysore that Sir Mirza Ismail is shortly retiring from her helm. His capacity as an administrator has been phenomenal, and his thirst for industrialising the State amazing. When the future history of the State is written you will all agree with me when I state that, Sir Mirza's name will occupy a front rank amongst her benefactors. It is a great loss for Mysore to be deprived of his able and selfless services on the eve of her new Reforms.

MR. K. RANGAIENGAR

Mr. K. Rangaiengar, Advocate, Tumkur, in the course of his statement in *Visvakarnataka* dated May 14, 1941, observed:—

“The news of the retirement of Sir Mirza has astonished and grieved not only the subjects of the State but outsiders as well. He is an able Dewan, and for a long time to come it will be difficult to find his like. A patriot of first rate zeal and industry, he worked with the high ambition of creating a greater Mysore, with a firm belief in rural regeneration. The Badanaval Khadi Centre

is a monument to his great ideal and was established when the Governments in British India had prohibited the use of Khadi. Sir Mirza gained international reputation for Mysore. It is a pity he is retiring at a critical juncture."

MR. BELUR SRINIVASA IYENGAR

Mr. Belur Srinivasa Iyengar paid a fine tribute to Sir Mirza Ismail and observed in the course of an interview with the representative of the *Visva-karnataka* (May 12, 1941):—

"I have been in politics for the last fifteen years; and among the Dewans who have administered the State from 1881 onwards, Sir Mirza M. Ismail is comparable to Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Sir K. Seshadri Iyer. His actions were all inspired by fellow-feeling and human sympathy. The Vani Vilas Hospital in Bangalore, and the many dispensaries newly founded elsewhere in the State testify to his efforts for the welfare of the people. As President of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council, he used to welcome constructive criticism. Indeed, it is unfortunate that Sir Mirza M. Ismail should retire when most important questions like the retrocession of Civil and Military Station and the abolition of subsidy are yet unsettled. Sir Mirza has fulfilled his promise made in his address to the Representative Assembly in 1926 to the effect that he regarded the office of Dewan as a great opportunity for rendering patriotic service. I am deeply moved to hear that his services are to terminate at

this juncture, and I express my gratitude for the courtesies he showed to me."

DR. P. VARADARAJULU NAIDU

Addressing a public meeting held at Tiruvannamalai on May 11, 1941, Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu paid a glowing tribute to Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, whom he characterised as a great patriot and able administrator with a liberal political outlook. His services to the Mysore people and State, he added, were great.

RAJACHARITAVISARADA RAO SAHIB C. HAYAVADANA RAO

The following tribute was paid by Rajacharitavisarada Rao Sahib C. Hayavadana Rao, President of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce, at its 25th Annual General Meeting held at Bangalore on November 15, 1941:—

"We miss the familiar figure of Sir Mirza M. Ismail who, since we last met, has laid down his high office. The Chamber has cause to remember him and recall the good he did to it time and again. To him we owe the grant of the site on which we have reared this fine structure of ours; to him we are indebted for the magnificent plans on which we have built the same; and to him we are also thankful for our little but tastefully laid out garden even. The future historian of Mysore will assess at its true worth, his services to the State and to India generally in the larger sphere

it was given to him to play. If, however, a history of our own times were to be written to-day, there would, I am sure, be many brilliant pages set down to him in it. In small things as in great, he was distinguished for energy, action and generosity. There was a human touch about him that endeared him to all. A well-known public man, one far-famed as sparing in praise and a good critic of men and things, once remarked thus: 'Well, Sir, Sir Mirza has done things which no other Dewan, however high or however great, could have achieved.' That, we may take it, as the verdict as much of the man-in-the-street as of Sir Mirza's own compeers. He helped to broaden the basis of popular Government; to diversify our occupations; to develop the resources of the people and the State; to enlarge the scope of the activities of the State in its many departments; and to secure to the State a larger share of its earnings for the benefit of its own people. If a distinguished predecessor of his chalked out a programme of work, he carried it into effect. If Sir M. Visvesvaraya saw a vision of Mysore's prosperity, Sir Mirza made us realize it in no uncertain manner. To say that Sir Mirza proved a true interpreter of the aims and policies of His late Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Bahadur, of undying fame, is to utter but a truism. But even truisms have their value, and in the present instance, a value that cannot in the least be gainsaid by Mysoreans blessed with the true sense of discrimination. Sir Mirza has many years of useful life yet left in him. We, the members of this Chamber, which owes so much to him and to

his memorable administration of three lustrums and more, wish him all success in any sphere of work to which he may be called before long. We know, wherever he may go, to whatever office he may be called, whichever country he may serve, his first thought will be to Mysore, its people and its Sovereign.

CHAPTER VI

MYSORE GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

H. H. THE MAHARAJA'S TRIBUTE TO SIR MIRZA

The following *Gazette Extraordinary* was issued by the Government of Mysore on July 1, 1941 :—

Amin-ul-Mulk Sir Mirza M. Ismail, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., Dewan of Mysore, having requested His Highness the Maharaja to permit him to lay down his office, His Highness has been graciously pleased to allow him to retire from the public service with effect from 1st June 1941.

In bidding him farewell, His Highness the Maharaja desires to place on record his high appreciation of the eminent services which Sir Mirza Ismail has rendered to the State. Over a period of thirty-six years he has set an enduring example of zeal and devotion to duty. His wide knowledge, his far-seeing statesmanship, his abundant energy, his keen interest in everything that is for the good of the State, his outstanding success in developing its resources, and his ready sympathy with people of all classes and creeds have endeared him to high and low alike and have made his name and his achievements famous far beyond the confines of Mysore.

More than twenty years ago His Highness the late Maharaja signified his high appreciation of

the services of Sir Mirza Ismail by decorating him with the jewel of the first class of the Gandabherunda Order and by conferring upon him the title of Amin-ul-Mulk. His Majesty the King-Emperor has marked his appreciation of Sir Mirza Ismail's services by bestowing upon him the degree and title, first of Companion and later of Knight Commander, of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, as well as those of Officer of the British Empire, while his services to humanity at large have been recognized by his appointment as a Commander of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Sir Mirza Ismail carries with him in his honourable retirement the esteem and good wishes of His Highness the Maharaja and of all the people of the State.



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